Semiannual Issue

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

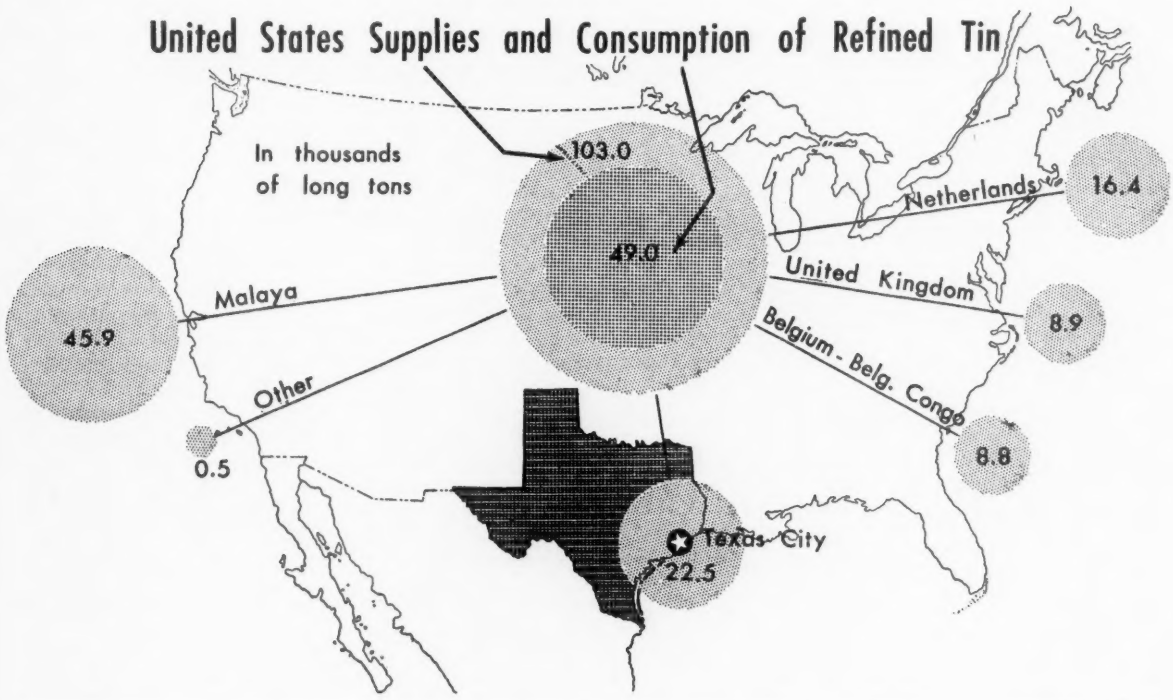
A Monthly Summary of Business and Economic Conditions in Texas

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH : THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

VOL. XXVII, No. 5 TWENTY CENTS A COPY—TWO DOLLARS A YEAR JULY 1953

Tin: f.o.b. Texas City

The Longhorn Smelter in Texas City, only major source of refined tin in the Americas, poured out nearly half as much tin as U. S. consumers used last year. But the nation remains heavily dependent upon other, far-flung sources to help build a domestic stockpile of this nearly indispensable metal. At the beginning of World War II, the nation was caught short. The chart below shows why such a shortage is unlikely to recur. Two circles, at center, represent the 1952 U. S. supply of tin, about 103,000 long tons, and the year's consumption, less than half that amount. Most of the rest was stockpiled, an undisclosed portion of it for defense purposes. A report beginning on page 15 of this issue sketches the important place of the tin industry in Texas and the world.



The Business Situation in Texas

Nearly all phases of business in Texas showed an increase in June over May and established the first half of 1953 as the best six months ever experienced by business in the state. The composite index of business activity compiled by the Bureau of Business Research rose 2% in June to bring it to 297% of the 1935–39 base period. This level of the index has been exceeded only once, by the 300 registered in January 1953. The upswing between May and June was shown in most of the component series. Industrial power consumption remained unchanged, and five other series increased. Only crude runs to stills declined (—1%). The detailed changes in the component series are given in the following table.

INDEX OF TEXAS BUSINESS ACTIVITY AND COMPONENT SERIES
(adjusted for seasonal variation, 1935–39=100)

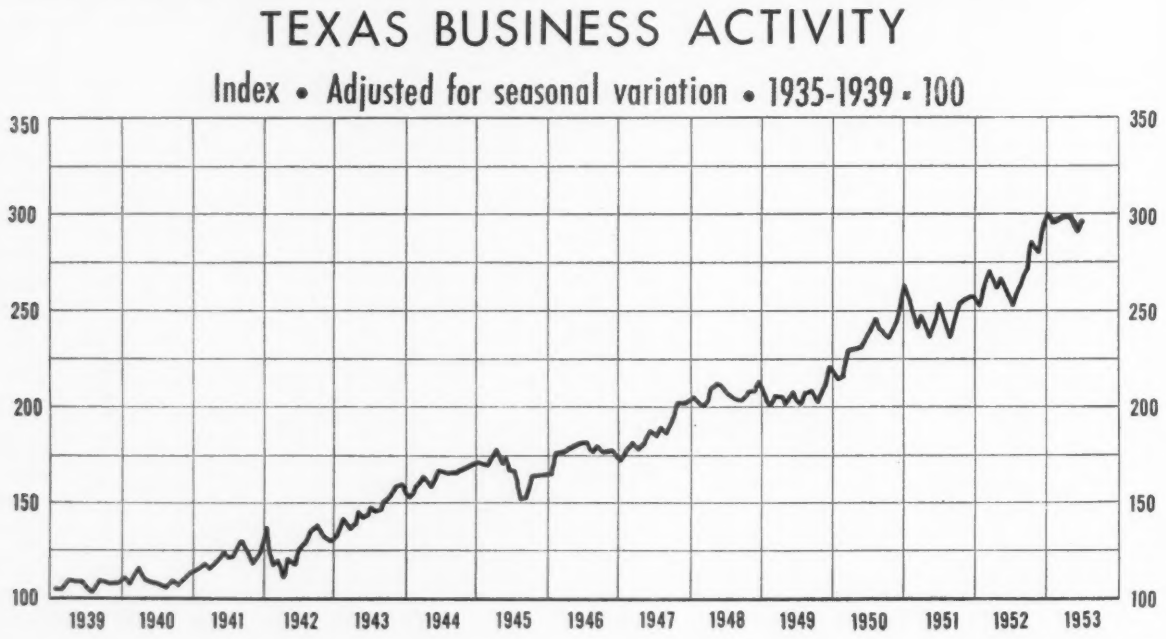
Indexes	Weight	June 1953	May 1953	Percent change
INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY (COMPOSITE)	100.0	297*	291*	+ 2
Retail sales, adjusted for price changes	47.7	251*	246	+ 2
Industrial power consumption	14.8	625	625	0
Crude oil runs to stills	4.5	220	222	— 1
Electric power consumption	3.0	749	678	+ 10
Miscellaneous freight carloadings	17.6	145	143	+ 1
Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes	3.8	212*	191*	+ 11
Crude petroleum production	8.6	222	211	+ 5

*Preliminary.

The all-time high for the index in January was followed by a rather sharp drop in February, but March and April showed a rising trend. May witnessed another downward movement, which was reversed in June, leaving the level of business only slightly lower than at the beginning of the year. Month-to-month changes in the index can be seen in the chart at the bottom of this page.

In spite of the fact that business has established a record, many businessmen are watching for indications that a change of direction is imminent. For this reason it seems wise to examine the extent of the boom that has established this new record, in the hope that this examination will give some indication of the degree of stability in the present situation. The average of the index of business activity for the first six months of 1953 was 295, an increase of 10% over the average for 1952. Retail sales, adjusted for changes in prices, increased 9% between the two periods. Total electric power and industrial power consumption increased considerably more than the composite (14 and 18%, respectively). Crude runs to stills and urban building both increased 7%, while crude petroleum production decreased 3%.

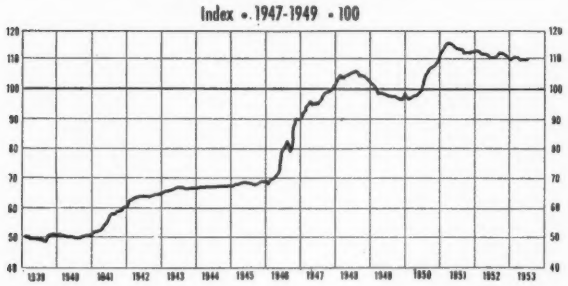
The most dynamic element in the Texas business situation has been the growth in industrial activity. New manufacturing plants—petroleum refining, chemicals, aircraft, automobiles, and many types of fabricating industries—have been built in the state since the end of World War II. The industrial expansion in the United States stimulated by the start of the Korean war affected the Texas industrial picture significantly. The first half of 1953 saw the industrial expansion still in full swing. We have no direct data with which to measure the expansion in industrial activity, but since the use of electric power is affected by all changes in industrial activity, particularly power sold under the industrial rate, the changes in industrial power consumption have been used to measure the changing industrial activity. The fact that this series showed the greatest increase over 1952 of all components in the index of business activity is taken as corroboration of the assumption that industrial activity has been one of the most dynamic forces.



The increased employment of industrial workers has resulted in increased disposable income in Texas from industrial sources, offsetting much of the decline in agricultural income that took place in the first half of 1953. With the stream of income to consumers well maintained, it followed more or less automatically that retail sales to consumers would stay at a high level. As long as disposable income continues to increase, it can logically be assumed that retail sales will increase, except as savings and consumer credit affect consumer buying power. The question that deserves the most attention at the present time is not the level of consumer buying but rather the decisions businessmen are making with respect to plans for expansion.

Wholesale Prices in the U.S.

Index • 1947-1949 • 100



Economists who are trying to determine what will happen to business are not unanimous in their forecasts of the immediate future. One group holds that demand is still so strong that there will be no letup in the rate of business activity. Another group fears that the peak has been reached and that the level of business is going to decline and perhaps has already started down. This decline was expected by the second half of 1953, but some analysts now believe that the second half of 1953 will be as good as the first.

The picture for Texas business during the second half of 1953 is no clearer than for the rest of the country. One major question will be how fast building and industrial expansion taper off. The listing of new plants and additions to existing plants in Texas that is maintained by the Bureau of Business Research shows a slowing down; in fact, some major projects have recently been cancelled. The increase in interest rates threatens to slow down building operations, although permits issued by Texas cities rose 11% in June and for the first six months of 1953 were 11% higher than the average for the year 1952. The tapering off of defense expansion has resulted in a reduction in some contracts held by Texas manufacturers, and it seems likely that still further reduction is coming. There appears to be little doubt that the administration will still further reduce the number of contractors; with the armed services beginning to approach their peak strength, the building of new facilities is about ended. The signing of the armistice in Korea probably will have little effect on the course of business, since it had already been discounted rather completely.

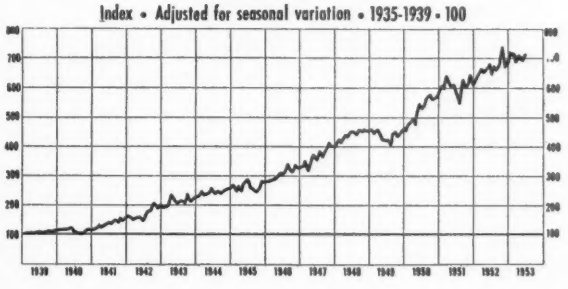
In spite of the fact that employment, consumer income, and retail sales are at all-time peaks, a slowing down of capital expansion in Texas and the rest of the country seems inevitable, and when it comes a reduction in total economic activity will result. The tremendous expansion since 1945 has filled most of the need for manufacturing capacity, including the equipment needed for munitions production. In other words, future capital creation will be to replace existing plant and equipment and to provide for the growing population and rising standard of living. It does not appear likely that these factors will support a level of activity as high as the past eight years.

One important result of the high level of business activity is the fact that inventories at the beginning of June totalled 77 billion dollars, an increase of 3% from January 1. However, during the five months sales also increased, with the result that inventories per dollar of monthly sales increased only slightly. A different picture is revealed when inventories are compared with their level of June 1950. Manufacturers' inventories have increased 50% during this period, while inventories per dollar of monthly sales have increased from $1.34 to $1.71. Over the same period, total business inventories increased 42%, and inventories per dollar of monthly sales have increased from $1.37 to $1.56. There is a general, uneasy feeling that too much of current output is going into inventories; if sales continue at their present high level, inventories are not too large, but if a reduction in consumer demand should develop, the large stocks of goods could become a serious factor in the business situation.

The index of bank debits rose 2% from May, which brought it to a level 15% above a year ago. The first six months of 1953 averaged 5% higher than the year 1952. The chart below shows that this index parallels rather closely the composite index of business activity and that both show the high degree of stability maintained during the first half of the year.

Bank Debits in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



Consumer prices in the United States rose in June, the fourth consecutive month of rise. Wholesale prices, which were higher on the average in May than in April, fell slightly during June. Prices of farm products and foods declined throughout June, but industrial prices rose slightly during the last half of the month.

JOHN R. STOCKTON

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CONSTRUCTION

Strikes slow Texas building. Picketing on large construction jobs in South Texas has tied up over $150 million worth of industrial and commercial construction during mid-July. A complete shut-down would lay off about 45,000 workers.

Labor contracts expired on July 1 so June construction activity was not affected by any major strikes. Permits let for four large office buildings in Houston, which are to cost more than $9 million altogether, caused the seasonally adjusted index of building permit values to turn up for the whole state in June compared to May by 11%. A 4% decline would have occurred instead had it not been for the tremendous value of nonresidential permits issued in Houston.

Completion of a great amount of defense installation building and the slowing of residential expansion have not materially reduced the number working in the construction industry group in Texas. According to the Texas Employment Commission, wage and salary workers in May totaled 168,600, and although this total was 2% below April, it represented a dip of only 1% from a year ago.

Sales of Texas lumber, building material, and hardware dealers increased by 8% from May to June, a substantial rise, since a 2% seasonal drop was to be anticipated. Sales in June this year were at a rate 4% below the same month in 1952. The level of sales of the first half of 1953 is 8% below the comparable period last year.

Texas permits soar. The value of building permits issued in the state turned up by about 20% in June over May, an increase 11% in excess of the normal seasonal rise. Most of this rise must be credited to nonresidential construction, which climbed about 82%, and to additions, alterations, and repairs, up 22%. Residential permits issued in the same period were down by 11%. All major categories of residential building declined except three- and four-family houses, which were up 58%.

Value of Urban Building Authorized in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100

The only substantial changes occurring in the nonresidential building classification were in the following types: office and bank buildings (+363%), stores and other mercantile buildings (+86%), and educational buildings (+47%).

Value of permits issued in the first six months of 1953 was at a rate 13% in excess of the first half of last year. Practically all of this increase was due to a 47% climb in nonresidential construction. Increases in the other two major categories were: additions, alterations, and repairs (+3%) and residential construction (+1%).

ESTIMATED VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Classification	June 1953*	January-June 1953	January-June 1952	Percent change
CONSTRUCTION CLASS	Value (thousands of dollars)			
ALL PERMITS	66,338	368,788	327,056	+ 13
New construction	57,692	326,244	285,555	+ 14
Residential	28,712	206,947	204,339	+ 1
Housekeeping	28,476	201,259	202,999	— 1
One family	27,444	192,208	185,106	+ 4
Multiple family	1,032	9,051	17,893	— 49
Nonhousekeeping	236	5,688	1,340	+324
Nonresidential	28,980	119,297	81,216	+ 47
Additions, alterations, and repairs	8,646	42,544	41,501	+ 3
CITY-SIZE GROUP (1940)				
ALL PERMITS	66,338	368,788	327,056	+ 13
Over 100,000	39,312	176,515	139,816	+ 26
50,000 to 100,000	8,399	69,760	60,451	+ 15
25,000 to 50,000	4,993	30,688	33,488	— 9
Under 2,500	13,634	91,875	93,310	— 2

Only building for which permits were issued within the incorporated area of selected cities is included. Federal contracts are excluded.
*Preliminary.

The city leading the state in per capita value of building permits issued during June was Irving with $183.14 per person. Other top cities: Arlington ($116.09), San Marcos ($76.75), Garland ($71.14), Canyon ($41.93), and Houston ($35.66). It is unusual for one of the largest cities in the state to appear in the ranks of the first ten cities in per capita value of building permits issued. Average per capita municipal building in the state for June was $15.74.

U. S. expenditures at all-time high. Expenditures for new construction in the United States were at the highest level in history during the first half of 1953, according to preliminary estimates of the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Building Materials Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Each month this year, spending for new construction has reached peak levels and by the end of June totaled $16 billion—almost 8% above the January-June 1952 total. Even after adjustment for price changes, new construction activity so far in 1953 was at an all-time high.

Contracts stable in Texas. The value of Texas construction contracts awarded remained practically unchanged from May to June. Increases of 5% in residential building and 12% in public works and utilities were nearly enough to offset a 16% decline in nonresidential building.

Publicly financed construction accounted for 31% of the June contract total and private for 69%. In May, these same two categories had split the total 30–70, a nearly identical proportion. However, in June of 1952 public construction accounted for nearly half (46%) of all contracts.

VALUE OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS AWARDED

Source: Dodge Statistical Research Service

Type of construction	June 1953	January-June 1953	January-June 1952	Percent change
	Value (thousands of dollars)			
ALL CONSTRUCTION	89,957	563,114	695,284	— 19
NEW BUILDINGS	70,040	450,197	529,740	— 15
Residential	42,503	272,660	288,118	— 5
Nonresidential	27,537	177,537	241,622	— 27
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES	19,917	112,917	165,494	— 32

Total value of construction contracts awarded during the first six months of this year are 19% below the same period of 1952. This sharp decline is explained by drops of 5% in residential building, 27% in nonresidential building, and 32% in public works and utilities.

LOANS BY SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS

Source: Federal Home Loan Bank of Little Rock

Type	June 1953	January-June 1953	January-June 1952	Percent change
	Number			
ALL LOANS	3,130	19,167	16,687	+ 15
Construction	657	3,482	3,770	— 8
Purchase	1,050	6,566	5,615	+ 17
Refinancing	258	1,827	1,566	+ 17
Reconditioning	417	2,132	1,658	+ 29
Other	748	4,800	4,078	+ 18
	Value (thousands of dollars)			
ALL LOANS	17,122	101,848	80,758	+ 25
Construction	5,316	29,831	25,050	+ 19
Purchase	6,207	38,872	30,451	+ 28
Refinancing	1,529	9,955	8,674	+ 15
Reconditioning	1,078	5,519	3,965	+ 39
Other	2,992	17,171	12,618	+ 36

The overall change can also be explained by the decreases of 32 and 12%, respectively, in the public and private segments. Public residential construction has all but stopped this year, with a rate 93% below the first half of 1952. Private residential building is the only category showing an increase in 1953 over 1952. It is up 15%. Nonresidential building and public works and utilities construction is proceeding at a slower rate in 1953 in both the public and private parts.

RICHARD C. HENSHAW, JR.

RETAIL TRADE

Volume still high. Business continued through June at generally high levels, with consumers' disposable income and their use of credit at the all-time peak. Although personal income for January through May was about 7% over the same months of 1952, farm income was estimated to be 3% lower for the nation as a whole and 11% off in some areas of the Southwest. Trade

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES

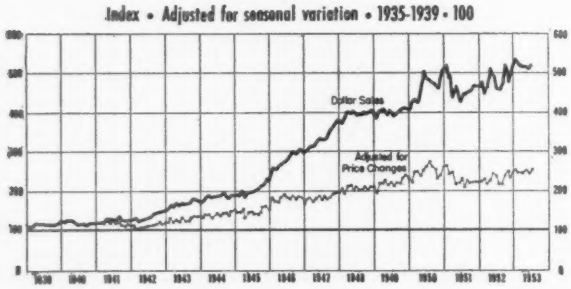
Type of store	Sales (mils of dols)		Percent change		
	June 1953	Jan-June 1953	June 1953 from June 1952	June 1953 from May 1953	Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952
TOTAL	667.0	3,995.9	+ 6	− 4	+ 8
Durable goods	296.8	1,771.3	+ 1	− 1	+ 9
Nondurable goods	370.2	2,224.6	+ 11	− 5	+ 7

slowed materially in localities where farm income is a major support for business activity. To add to the growing feeling of uncertainty, cutbacks in defense spending have become noticeable in some areas and industries.

Inventories still higher. Steady accumulation of inventories has continued through the past year, although the accompanying build-up of sales has proceeded even more rapidly in some lines. Shortages of goods have largely disappeared except for spotty deficiencies of small air-conditioners and some types of light-weight apparel. Manufacturers have cut output during the past

Retail Sales in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



few months, as distributors have been buying on a replacement basis in accord with slower sales of trucks and tractors, refrigerators, washing machines, clothes driers and some other household appliances. Previously sluggish sales in television revived during recent weeks. Automobile inventories, built up for five months, eased off in May and June. But large stocks of used cars overhang the market, with the average price of models estimated to be about 20% below last year. Clearance sales in numerous lines have helped streamline inventory bulk. On the whole, inventories appear to be in line with the high sales expectancy for coming months.

Sales buoy summer marketing. At the wholesale markets, orders for apparel are materially ahead of last year, with commitments on somewhat longer terms than before. Demand is strong for men's clothing of blended fabrics. There has been considerable activity in summer lines as buyers sought to rebuild stocks depleted rapidly by the continuing upsurge of consumers' buying that began about a year ago. However, the markets for furniture and household goods were sluggish although well attended. Cautious shopping proceeded to the point where manufacturers fear delivery bottlenecks in the fall unless current commitments are increased substantially. Toy and gift markets were active.

Prices tighten at lower levels. After two years of downward adjustment, wholesale prices have shown a slight firming or upward tendency in some lines. Although wholesale price reductions have been imperfectly reflected in various retail lines, some commodities have shown strength at retail levels. Merchants are uneasy about the question of whether customers will accept stiffer prices at this time. Manufacturers and distributors of various household products containing steel are now questioning their ability to express in wholesale and retail prices the recent advances in costs of steel as well as labor. While it has changed only nominally and at a high level during the last year, the Consumer Price Index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed an increase from May 15 to June 15, the fourth consecutive monthly rise. The new high point was at least 12% over the index level registered before Korean hostilities began.

The market psychology and selling prospects are promising. Various surveys among businessmen show strong optimism, especially among retailers, for whom the autumn and Christmas peak-sales periods are not

RETAIL SALES TRENDS

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Group	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change		
		June 1953 from June 1952	June 1953 from May 1953	Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952
KIND OF BUSINESS				
DURABLE GOODS				
Automotive stores	270	+ 7	− 5	+ 18
Furniture and household-appliance stores	156	+ 2	+ 10	+ 4
Jewelry stores	32	+ 3	− 12	− 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	317	− 4	+ 8	− 8
NONDURABLE GOODS				
Apparel stores	237	x	− 15	+ 3
Country general stores	44	x	− 7	− 3
Department stores	77	− 4	− 10	− 1
Drug stores	180	+ 2	− 5	+ 3
Eating and drinking places	111	− 1	− 4	− 2
Filling stations	854	+ 5	+ 6	+ 4
Florists	37	+ 5	− 32	+ 1
Food stores	224	+ 17	− 6	+ 7
General merchandise stores	146	x	− 8	+ 1
Liquor stores	8	+ 12	+ 8	+ 12
Office, store, and school supply dealers	38	− 2	− 9	+ 2
CITY-SIZE CLASS (1950)				
Over 250,000	1,220	+ 6	− 5	+ 5
100,000 to 250,000	257	+ 7	− 2	+ 9
50,000 to 100,000	264	+ 4	− 5	+ 7
2,500 to 50,000	874	x	− 5	+ 5
Under 2,500	120	− 7	+ 5	− 10

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Credit ratios* June 1953	Credit ratios* June 1952	Collection ratios† June 1953	Collection ratios† June 1952
ALL STORES	69	63.9	64.2	38.1	39.7
BY CITIES					
Austin	5	58.2	57.8	52.6	50.0
Corpus Christi	3	60.9	58.5	38.7	40.5
Dallas	8	71.1	71.0	39.6	43.9
Denison	3	57.7	55.8	41.0	34.9
El Paso	3	56.4	58.7	32.4	36.1
Fort Worth	4	62.3	64.5	43.4	39.8
Galveston	3	56.4	54.2	44.9	46.2
Houston	7	62.4	63.2	32.9	32.8
San Antonio	5	64.8	65.8	43.6	45.9
Waco	4	59.9	58.6	49.5	52.3
Others	24	57.0	55.1	40.4	44.3
BY TYPE OF STORE					
Department stores (over $1 million)	21	65.2	65.7	36.5	38.2
Department stores (under $1 million)	20	45.8	44.0	43.6	44.4
Dry goods and apparel stores	4	69.7	68.6	54.2	54.0
Women's specialty shops	14	60.4	59.0	42.4	44.4
Men's clothing stores	10	59.8	63.1	53.0	52.7
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1952)					
Over $3,000,000	20	65.4	65.8	37.0	38.6
$1,500,000 to $3,000,000	6	57.6	60.9	48.4	50.4
$500,000 to $1,500,000	20	56.0	54.5	48.7	48.7
$250,000 to $500,000	11	39.2	38.8	41.8	41.3
Less than $250,000	12	46.8	45.0	42.5	43.2

*Credit sales as a percent of net sales.

†Collections during the month as a percent of accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

far ahead. Although consumer credit has reached an all-time high point of about $26.2 billions, and consumers are still saving about 8% of their disposable income, yet their spending intentions remain high, as reported in the 1953 Survey of Consumer Finances of the Federal Reserve Board. Numerous basic economic indicators are still favorable, although others have developed challenging positions or movements.

Texas retailing at mid-year. Of 45 cities reporting enough retailers of various types to be listed individually, 11 bettered May, 18 topped June 1952 and 27 were ahead of January-June 1952. Best showings in the June-to-June comparison were at Big Spring (+26%), Houston and Pittsburg (+24% each), Denison (+18%), Texas City (+17%), Austin and Marshall (+14% each), Waco (+12%), and Orange (+10%). Comparing the January-June periods, leading increases were at Houston (+25%), Pittsburg (+24%), Texas City (+19%), Orange (+18%), Corpus Christi and Denison (+15% each), Austin (+14%), Odessa and Port Arthur (+12% each).

Reporting by cities, 328 Texas department and apparel stores averaged a decline of 10% from May but equaled June 1952 and gained a nominal 1% over January-June of 1952. Among the 37 cities included, only three topped May: Marshall (+7%), Denison (+2%), and Texas City (+1%). Sixteen cities bettered June 1952 and 14 were ahead in comparing January-June with those months of last year. In the June-to-June comparison, the leaders were Texas City (+27%), Marshall (+17%), Greenville (+16%), Denison and Houston (+11% each), Sherman (+10%), and Brownwood (+8%). Best showings for the six months were in Texas City (+15%), Corpus Christi (+11%), Marshall (+10%), Houston (+8%), and Sherman (+7%).

Advertising linage in 34 Texas newspapers as a group fell 12% from May but equaled June of 1952. The first six months of 1953 topped January-June 1952 by 4%, with 23 papers ahead.

Sales of gasoline subject to tax totaled 260,760,000 gallons in May, 3% below April and 1% down from a year earlier. Gasoline sold to the federal government amounted to 1,393,554,000 gallons, 4% under April but 40% higher than in May 1952.

A. HAMILTON CHUTE

POSTAL RECEIPTS

City	June 1953	January-June 1953	January-June 1952	Percent change
TOTAL*	$ 5,362,690	$32,994,291	$30,896,181	+ 7
Bastrop	1,339	10,209	9,860	+ 4
Bay City	7,396	44,655	42,164	+ 6
Belton	5,238	28,933	31,331	— 8
Borger	12,162	71,949	72,019	x
Brady	3,586	23,462	26,254	— 11
Brownfield	5,616	35,489	34,461	+ 3
Bryan	17,015	103,344	88,816	+ 16
Cameron	6,189	43,421	39,605	+ 10
Childress	4,126	27,068	28,856	— 6
Cisco	3,621	23,393	23,761	— 2
Cleburne	9,574	61,443	57,701	+ 6
Coleman	4,818	29,190	29,939	— 3
Crystal City	2,120	14,944	15,842	+ 6
Cuero	4,475	24,528	26,248	— 7
El Campo	6,317	39,752	37,307	+ 7
Gainesville	8,425	52,982	49,446	+ 7
Gatesville	3,194	21,558	25,859	— 17
Giddings	2,374	14,578	14,750	— 1
Gilmer	3,753	21,663	22,862	— 5
Goldthwaite	1,595	8,888	9,141	— 3
Granbury	1,341	8,221	6,749	+ 22
Grand Prairie	11,200	67,390	52,765	+ 28
Hillsboro	4,925	29,686	30,496	— 3
Huntsville	5,857	39,037	39,708	+ 2
Jacksonville	9,524	58,541	57,178	+ 2
Kenedy	3,413	19,152	17,457	+ 10
Kermit	4,388	28,382	27,807	+ 2
Kerrville	7,811	45,220	44,575	+ 1
Kilgore	9,637	63,213	61,576	+ 3
Kingsville	10,737	59,351	48,994	+ 21
La Grange	4,346	25,792	23,141	+ 11
Levelland	4,912	35,168	32,864	+ 7
Littlefield	5,096	27,032	26,884	+ 1
Luling	2,801	16,089	15,646	+ 3
McCamey	2,325	16,202	17,154	— 6
Mission	5,217	34,312	33,918	+ 4
Navasota	3,238	22,073	20,518	+ 8
New Braunfels	10,791	64,721	62,055	+ 4
Pampa	15,417	83,637	81,769	+ 2
Pasadena	14,274	79,949	72,204	+ 11
Pecos	8,209	46,490	42,846	+ 9
Pittsburg	2,369	14,773	11,854	+ 25
Snyder	7,892	49,417	56,140	— 12
Terrell	4,573	28,694	28,490	+ 1
Uvalde	6,315	36,016	33,594	+ 7
Vernon	7,109	52,865	54,122	— 2
Victoria	19,463	113,858	96,626	+ 18
Weatherford	7,616	41,573	37,151	+ 12
Yoakum	8,182	53,053	50,510	+ 5

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditons."

AGRICULTURE

Continued drouth. Drouth, the worst in Texas history, tightened its grip on the western half of the state during July, in spite of light to moderate rainfall over much of the area. Rains fell in a spotty pattern, varying sharply in amount from farm to farm. Yet much of the stricken region remained dry, as sun-scorched ranges deteriorated to the worst condition ever reported for July. Farmers and stockmen, hard hit by the drouth, held on to hope for survival as carloads of feed for hungry cattle and $150 million in loans were made available through action by the federal government.

Reduction in cotton acreage. Cotton acreage in the state as of July 1 was estimated at 9,600,000 acres—about 18% under that for a year before. Most of this cut may be attributed to the drouth, not to the intentions of farmers. In counties where farmers vainly waited for enough rain to bring up dry-planted acreage, major shifts were made, principally from cotton to sorghums. Wide variation in the state of the cotton crop was reported, although the general condition was said to be good. In the Rio Grande Valley, excellent progress was made in harvesting the short 300,000-bale crop.

Decrease in vegetable production. Texas' summer vegetable crop was sharply cut by disease, drouth, and intense heat during July. The East Texas tomatoes, usually a big crop, were reduced to less than a third

CARLOAD SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	5,072	4,418	2,060	+146	+ 15
Cattle	3,983	3,092	1,422	+180	+ 29
Calves	564	433	209	+170	+ 30
Hogs	2	5	48	— 96	— 60
Sheep	523	888	381	+ 37	— 41
INTERSTATE	4,771	4,230	1,824	+162	+ 13
Cattle	3,712	2,943	1,259	+195	+ 26
Calves	540	408	200	+170	+ 32
Hogs	0	2	6	—100	—100
Sheep	519	872	359	+ 45	— 40
INTRASTATE	301	188	236	+ 28	+ 60
Cattle	271	144	163	+ 66	+ 88
Calves	24	25	9	+167	— 4
Hogs	2	3	42	— 95	— 33
Sheep	4	16	22	— 82	— 75

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (1909–14=100)

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Index	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	264	280	338	— 22	— 6
ALL CROPS	260	257	307	— 15	+ 1
Food grains	246	266	286	+ 4	— 8
Feed grains and hay	193	206	226	— 15	— 6
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	310	356	339	— 9	— 13
Fruit	147	147	240	— 39	0
Truck crops	388	295	472	— 18	+ 32
Cotton	252	252	304	— 17	0
Oil-bearing crops	290	307	325	— 11	— 6
LIVESTOCK AND PRODUCTS	269	309	380	— 29	— 13
Meat animals	264	334	482	— 45	— 21
Dairy products	242	254	271	— 11	— 5
Poultry and eggs	251	258	204	+ 23	— 3
Wool	404	391	366	+ 10	+ 3

FARM CASH INCOME

Commodity	January-June Value (thousands of dollars) 1953	1952	Percent change
TEXAS	648,011	792,403	— 18
Cotton	116,539	193,287	— 40
Cottonseed	1,934	9,756	— 80
Wheat	27,398	50,286	— 46
Oats	6,717	5,833	+ 15
Corn	4,475	6,054	— 26
Grain sorghum	10,179	28,119	— 64
Flaxseed	3,911	3,155	+ 24
Peanuts	1,294	1,584	— 18
Cattle	133,017	215,211	— 38
Calves	44,013	60,731	— 28
Hogs	40,922	50,195	— 18
Sheep and lambs	12,368	10,076	+ 23
Wool	13,006	20,382	— 36
Mohair	5,481	8,292	— 34
Poultry	30,657	36,107	— 15
Eggs	44,753	43,083	+ 4
Milk and milk products	103,672	127,855	— 19
Fruit and vegetables	47,675	52,905	— 10

Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the index shown on page 24.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Source: Compiled from reports of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Item	January-June Rail shipments (carloads) 1953	1952	Percent change
TOTAL	26,677	25,720	+ 4
FRUIT	1,812	449	+304
Cantaloups	1,124	314	+258
Grapefruit	43	.....	.....
Lemons	23	.....	.....
Oranges	83	.....	.....
Plums and prunes	85	.....	.....
Tangerines	1	.....	.....
Watermelons	484	135	+259
Mixed fruit	19	.....	.....
VEGETABLES	24,865	25,271	— 2
Beets	139	208	— 33
Cabbage	1,390	2,196	— 37
Carrots	4,518	3,705	+ 22
Cauliflower	115	162	— 29
Corn	512	423	+ 21
Lettuce	1,311	1,156	+ 13
Onions	6,524	6,588	— 1
Potatoes	66	94	— 30
Spinach	1,009	1,074	— 6
Tomatoes	4,254	4,175	+ 2
Mixed vegetables	5,027	5,495	— 85

of normal as a result of unfavorable weather. In other areas, lack of rainfall parched large acreages of vegetables, especially watermelons and peppers. In the Panhandle the season's potato yield was sharply cut by disease. But early July rains did benefit vegetable fields in Central and South Texas.

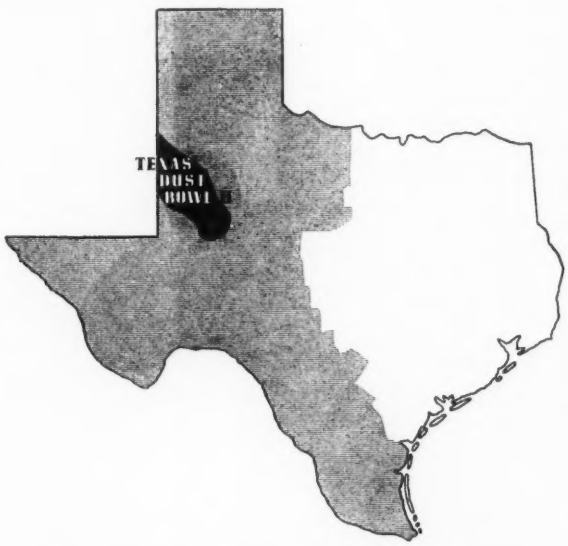
Fall in agricultural prices. Prices received by farmers during June averaged 6% under those of the preceding month and 22% under those received in June 1952. The sharp May-June drop was largely a result of an overall 13% decrease in prices of livestock and products. Crops changed little in value, rising to about 1% above the May level.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

TEXAS WATER RESOURCES: I

1953—YEAR OF THE DROUTH

Drifts of sand and topsoil blocking the highways provided daily work for bulldozer crews from Lubbock to Lamesa. And southwest of Lubbock, a baby dust bowl stretched across the High Plains and far into New Mexico. Section crews on West Texas railroads had to shovel sand off their track to keep the lines clear for emergency shipments of grain and feed.



After nearly four years of drouth, some areas of Texas reached what seemed a breaking point in June and July. In spots, conditions appeared to be the disheartening equal of the Dust Bowl drouth of the 1930's. The causes were similar; scant, ineffective rainfall; scorching heat; high winds that dug into every acre of uncovered ground; and continued efforts to cultivate lands that in many cases should never have been plowed.

The breaking point, however, has not come, nor is there much indication that it will. Improved methods of dry-crop farming, the spread of irrigation, experience gained in the last great drouth, and above all the much higher economic stability of the state and nation have kept what might have been a major agricultural crash from being anything worse than a painful adjustment. Many farmers have been obliged to move to town in search of nonagricultural work. But the employment market they are entering is a relatively active one, far from the jobless depression that bankrupt Dust Bowl farmers faced twenty years ago.

The map on this page shows the shaded, western half of Texas, 128 counties officially designated as drouth disaster area by Governor Allan Shivers. In some of these counties, the 1953 crop of grass withered and died before it was well out of the ground. And around Lubbock, Del Rio, and Falfurrias, these conditions have prevailed with little natural relief for 45 months. Late in June, agricultural experts set July 20 as the deadline for cotton planting, provided some rain had fallen by that time. Early July showers scattered across most of the state promised that the late planting might be justified. But the promise was broken. In temperatures above 100°, half the sparse rain that did fall evaporated at once, and much of the rest ran off the hard crust of earth. Now High Plains cotton growers face their third year of ruined crops. Unless August brings a fair quota of rainfall, fields of grain sorghum, planted in desperate attempt to hold the soil in place, will also fail.

During the days of the 1930 Dust Bowl, most of the hardest hit drouth area of 1953 suffered little, for it was unplowed grassland at that time, and the grass cover held soil in place. High rainfall and high prices during the 1940's were the factors that stimulated cultivation of the dry High Plains. In many cases, one bumper crop repaid farmers the low original cost of their land. Cotton and grain sorghum rose in green opulence. Then the rains stopped, and with them the brief prosperity.

The black blot on the accompanying map indicates the region where wind has reportedly done the most drastic damage. And that damage may be only a token of what is to come, for October is the windiest season in this windy area, and unless rains fall by then, the blown region may spread as sharp sand, driven from field to field, blasts the cover of vegetation from lands that now have some natural protection.

It remains to be seen what August and September may bring. A late summer heat wave, almost a yearly event even in better times, could undo the slight good that July rains did some regions. Farmers in the rainiest spots have complained that July torrents eroded their fields severely, or that their oncoming crops of grain sorghum will bring them little cash income. But their neighbors who have had no rain at all are almost beyond complaining.

R.H.R.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

By the last, torrid week in June, production of electric power across the nation had reached a new high. Unusually heavy demands on Texas air-conditioning and water-pumping equipment combined with the increasing industrial power consumption to help raise total power use to its highest recorded level, 7.49 times as great as during the 1935–39 prewar period.

The Texas electric power indexes are computed by the Bureau of Business Research from reports that include the major portion of the Texas electric utility business, and the nearly constant rise in these indexes is one of the most revealing measures of growth and modernization in Texas homes, businesses, and factories. It is obvious from other statistical series that even though Texas industries have grown tremendously since the prewar years, their output is not 525% greater than it was then, although their consumption of electric power is. The explanation lies partly in the greater use of electricity per unit of product. Many manufacturers have installed more efficient, electrified equipment to turn out their products at lower cost; some have moved into streamlined, windowless buildings provided with high-wattage lighting and cooling facilities. In addition, certain manufactures that require enormous amounts of power (e.g. aluminum refining) have only recently been established in Texas.

Today, residential and commercial use of electricity in Texas registers an exaggerated "thermometer effect." It might be expected that these classes of power consumption would rise rather sharply with the opening of the air-conditioning season. But the increases scored this year from May to June (+26% for commercial; +28% for residential) were apparently distorted by the widespread installation of new air-conditioning and ventilating units and by other factors. The longer-term increment to the electric power load is reflected in gains of 11% for commercial use and 17% for residential use in the comparison of January-June 1952 with the first half of this year.

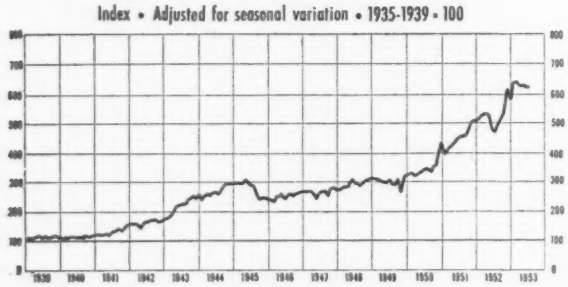
In an expanding economy like that of Texas, it is difficult or impossible to separate the long-term trends of industrialization, population growth, and technological change from the month-to-month fluctuations that may superficially suggest, for example, that in the Texas industrial world, June 1953 was a 16% better month than May.

With the speed-up in industrial activity has come a related increase in manufacturing employment. The average for the first half of this year, 437,200, is more than 4% up from the January-June 1952 level. And in certain industries the payrolls have grown even more strikingly. Texas primary metals plants, for instance, employed 32% more workers this June than last; electric equipment manufacturers employed 19% more, metal fabricators 12% more, and chemical producers 9% more.

During the second quarter of the year, industrial prices throughout the nation rose an average of less than 1%. While no industrial price index is available for Texas alone, it is likely that the state ran somewhat ahead of the national increase. Crude petroleum, top Texas commodity, was up 25.5 cents a barrel in price (the first oil price rise in over five years); and Alcoa

Industrial Electric Power Use in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION

Use	June 1953	January-June 1953	January-June 1952	Percent change
	Consumption (thous kw-hrs)			
TOTAL	1,387,137	7,133,795	5,834,956	+ 22
Commercial	261,428	1,224,336	1,106,274	+ 11
Industrial	616,679	3,456,201	2,796,771	+ 24
Residential	222,695	1,089,448	934,339	+ 17
Other	286,335	1,363,808	997,572	+ 37

*Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

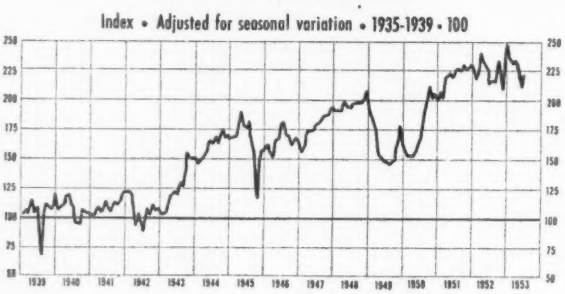
PETROLEUM AND GAS ACTIVITY

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts and Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Product	June 1953	May 1953	June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
CARBON BLACK PRODUCED (value in thous of dols)	1,855	2,920	5,138	— 64	— 36
CRUDE OIL					
Value (thous of dols)	209,879	213,907	157,175	+ 34	— 2
Production (thous of bbls)	80,732	82,745	60,820	+ 33	— 2
Runs to stills (thous of bbls)	61,109	62,291	56,699	+ 8	— 2
NATURAL AND CASINGHEAD GAS PRODUCED (Value in thous of dols)	32,271	32,923	24,966	+ 29	— 2

Crude Petroleum Production

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



WELL COMPLETIONS

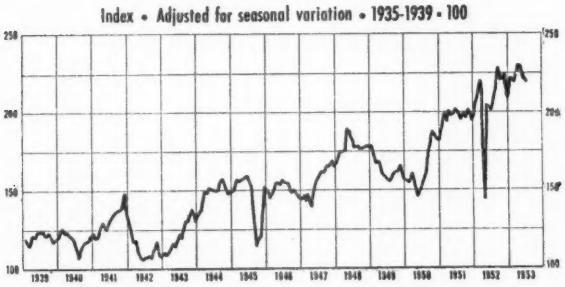
Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Region	June 1953*				January-June	
	Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	1953	1952
TEXAS	738	75	537	1,350	8,802	8,972
North Central	303	3	222	528	3,174	2,797
West	185	4	85	274	2,029	2,816
Panhandle	28	23	7	58	408	327
Eastern	21	7	41	69	427	465
Gulf Coast	91	18	79	188	1,330	1,317
Southwest	110	20	103	233	1,434	1,250

*For four weeks ending June 27, 1953.

Crude Oil Runs to Stills in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



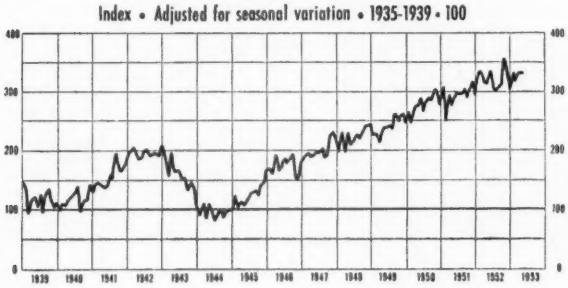
aluminum was 5% more expensive by the ingot. During the March-June period, average hourly earnings of Texas manufacturing workers were up 1.8%, while consumer prices rose only 0.89% nationally.

War and peace in Texas industry. With truce damping the highest pitch of current war interest, the domestic economy of the nation is likely to take an even more prominent position in the news. One basic question: what will happen to industrial output with the possible cutback of military requirements? As for Texas, some decline is already apparent. The quarterly bulletins published by the Bureau of Business Research summarizing Texas industrial expansion already reflect a decline in new manufacturing projects, not so much in number as in size. A General Electric appliance factory previously scheduled for construction in Tyler has been cancelled; and in the North Texas aircraft industry there has been some indication of recession in subcontracting activity.

At the opposite corner of the state, the Carthage Hydrocol synthetic gasoline plant at Brownsville, largely owned by the Texas Company, has nearly completed its shutdown. The firm announced in mid-June that large-scale reconditioning and the installation of new equipment would incapacitate the plant for an indefinite period. Mechanical production problems have hindered efficient operation of the Hydrocol unit, which was designed to synthesize gasoline from natural gas and oxygen. Meanwhile, a Stanolind Oil and Gas Company unit in Brownsville, which has previously processed chemical by-products from the Hydrocol plant, will be forced to close as soon as current raw material stocks are exhausted.

Cement Production in Texas

Index • Adjusted for seasonal variation • 1935-1939 • 100



REFINERY STOCKS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

Area and product	June 1953	January-June (average month) 1953	1952	Percent change
	(Stocks (thousands of barrels)			
UNITED STATES				
Gasoline	146,965	154,450	137,746	+ 12
Distillate	82,985	70,845	54,395	+ 30
Residual	43,771	42,663	38,689	+ 10
Kerosene	26,956	22,130	18,573	+ 19
TEXAS				
Gasoline	26,858	27,406	27,076	+ 1
Distillate	13,645	10,104	8,537	+ 18
Residual	7,973	7,462	7,084	+ 5
Kerosene	4,217	3,190	3,176	x

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of the month.

In spite of the lull in military activities, it is generally thought that the need for new oil reserves will continue to stimulate drilling and other phases of the Texas crude petroleum industry. In West Texas, oil revenue has done much to offset the withering economic effects of the prolonged drouth. If authoritative forecasts prove accurate, an increase from 1,860 new Permian basin wells in the first half of 1953 to 1,974 during the remaining six months will be registered; such a gain would help cushion the depression in agricultural employment. Rising consumption of oil products—gasoline use is up 11% from a year ago—has placed a heavy drain on reserves, and there has been a recent lag in the development of new major fields. As a result, Texas drilling for the second half of the year is projected at a level nearly 3% higher than in the first half.

ROBERT H. RYAN

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Product	June 1953	January-June 1953	1952	Percent change
TOTAL PRODUCTION OF MILK EQUIVALENT (thous of lbs)	66,019	336,815	270,024	+ 25
Creamery butter (thous of lbs)	683	4,946	3,250	+ 52
Ice cream (thous of gals)	2,561	10,934	12,395	− 12
American cheese (thous of lbs)	419	2,821	2,345	+ 20
Cottage cheese (thous of lbs)	840	3,880	3,247	+ 4
Concentrated milk products (thous of lbs)	7,483	34,196	13,213	+159

Milk equivalent of dairy products is calculated from production data.

REPORTED PETROLEUM PRODUCTION
Source: Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas

Oil and gas district	Production (barrels) Mar 1953	Feb 1953	Mar 1952	Percent change Mar 1953 from Mar 1952	Mar 1953 from Feb 1953
TEXAS	87,017,387	80,632,803	90,158,057	— 3	+ 8
District 1	1,140,811	1,025,624	1,041,648	+ 10	+ 11
District 2	4,779,119	4,472,628	5,206,096	— 8	+ 7
District 3	14,048,837	13,068,789	15,032,422	— 7	+ 7
District 4	7,960,532	7,428,339	8,280,045	— 4	+ 7
District 5	1,521,686	1,438,705	1,912,577	— 20	+ 6
District 6	11,504,996	10,714,491	12,099,217	— 5	+ 7
District 7b	3,514,936	2,161,381	2,916,721	+ 21	+ 63
District 7c	5,368,387	4,769,802	4,283,934	+ 25	+ 13
District 8	29,067,440	27,173,980	31,760,376	— 8	+ 7
District 9	5,741,036	5,236,037	5,085,917	+ 13	+ 10
District 10	2,369,607	2,143,027	2,584,109	— 6	+ 11

Bureau of Business Research Publications

Job Evaluation in Automobile and Automotive Parts Industries

William R. Spriegel, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Management, and **E. Lanham,** Assistant Professor of Management, College of Business Administration, have written this fifth in their series of "Personnel Studies" from information gathered from throughout the automotive field. Price, one dollar.

COTTON

The cotton balance sheet for the current crop year has lost its influence over cotton price movements. A few facts about the cotton balance deserve special attention if one is to see the cotton situation in the United States in its proper world perspective. Most important of these facts is that the increase in carryover, or balance, on July 31 is due mostly to the decline in exports, which is explained largely in terms of world location of the cotton supply. Last year, much of the world carryover of U. S.-grown cotton was in foreign countries; now it is in the United States.

It is apparent that consumption in this country for the year just ending (the cotton crop year ends July 31) is substantially larger than for last year. World consumption of all cotton is also higher.

World production of cotton outside the Iron Curtain nations for 1952–53 is less than for the preceding year. The prospective production for the same area during 1953–54, as indicated by acreage planted so far, is substantially less. Demand for cotton throughout the world is stronger now than at this time last year, as indicated by mill margins and sales for forward delivery of goods.

A. B. Cox

TEXAS COTTON ACTIVITY
Source: Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Item	May 1953	Apr 1953	May 1952	Percent change May 1953 from May 1952	May 1953 from Apr 1953
COTTONSEED (thous of tons)					
Received at mills	2,556	3,437	5,264	— 51	— 26
Crushed	71,386	84,804	55,777	+ 28	— 16
Stocks, end-of-month	77,309	135,312	63,746	+ 21	— 43
CONSUMPTION (running bales)					
Cotton	10,840	13,517	10,579	+ 2	— 20
Linters	2,388	2,203	2,206	+ 8	+ 8
SPINDLES (thousands)					
Spindles in place	229	229	222	+ 3	0
Spindles active	220	222	208	+ 6	— 1
Total spindle hours	86,000†	102,000	79,000	+ 9	+ 16
Average spindle hours	376	445	356	+ 6	— 16

†For four weeks ending May 30, 1953.

COTTON BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED STATES AS OF JUNE 1, 1953

Year	Carryover Aug 1	Imports to July 1*	Final ginnings*	Total	Consumption to July 1	Exports to July 1	Total	Balance as of July 1
1943–44	10,687	132	11,129	21,948	9,220	1,044	10,264	11,684
1944–45	10,727	183	11,839	22,749	8,895	1,615	10,510	12,239
1945–46	11,164	321	8,813	20,298	8,434	3,186	11,620	8,678
1946–47	7,522	276	8,513	16,311	9,358	3,458	12,816	3,495
1947–48	2,521	236	11,552	14,309	8,719	1,819	10,538	3,771
1948–49	2,823	161†	14,540	17,524	7,343	4,015†	11,358	6,166
1949–50	5,283	251†	15,908	21,442	8,259	4,765†	13,024	8,418
1950–51	6,846	180†	9,899	16,925	9,884	3,784†	13,668	3,257
1951–52	2,179	69†	15,130	17,378	8,443	5,207†	13,650	3,728
1952–53	2,745	209†	14,951	17,905	8,680	2,954†	11,634	6,271

The cotton year begins August 1, and figures are in thousands of running bales except as noted.
*In 478 pound bales.
†To June 1 only.

LABOR

More workers; no more jobs. Texas nonagricultural employment continued stable in June, showing only a minor drop from comparable May figures. But barometers of employment suggest that growing labor surpluses, not yet serious, are developing in the 17 key labor markets of Texas.

Since employment held steady, increases in unemployment reflected a rise in the nonfarm civilian labor force. An increased supply of workers was available throughout the state, many of them students leaving school and colleges. These youths, however, are mostly seeking work only for the summer months and have little or no work experience. Many of them will not likely be placed, for employers, especially in the industrial centers, are looking for skilled workers and technicians. Another cause for the expanded nonfarm labor force was the continuing drouth. In a year of average crop conditions thousands more might be engaged in seasonal farm work.

Waco was the only key labor market to record a significant increase (3%) over last month, with 1,100 additional persons placed in employment. This increase was primarily due to the return to work of persons made idle by the recent tornado, and also to the hiring of construction workers for rebuilding the devastated area.

Total June nonfarm unemployment increased approximately 20% over May; the increase was general over the key labor markets. Only El Paso, with no change, and Waco, with its 12% decrease in unemployment, showed countertrends.

Data received from the Texas Employment Commission indicate that June unemployment, expressed as a percent of the labor force, rose in all tabulated labor markets except Waco. An 83% increase in unemployment at Lubbock brought the total there to 2,200 persons seeking work. Unemployed in that area surged upward to 6.3% from a moderate 3.5% in May.

July strikes hit construction. A rash of labor disputes marred the state labor picture during July. The first rumble of discontent was noted July 14 when AFL iron workers at Houston and carpenters at Port Arthur, Beaumont, and Orange remained away from their jobs following refusal of their demands for a wage increase. Then, on July 21 AFL operating engineers left work in the Houston-Texas City-Galveston area. Combined walkouts have halted work on approximately $100 million worth of industrial construction, including a multimillion dollar expansion at Du Pont's Orange chemical plant; a $5 million plant under construction for Allied Chemical and Dye Corporation, also at Orange; and a $6 million expansion project at the Texas Company's Port Arthur refinery.

One bright spot in the labor dispute picture was the settlement, July 21, of the Austin plumbers strike, ending a walk-out of nearly three weeks duration.

HARVEY B. SMITH

ESTIMATES OF NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Industry	Employment (thousands)			Percent change	
	June 1953*	May 1953	June 1952	June 1953 from June 1952	June 1953 from May 1953
TOTAL	2,281.5	2,267.9	2,215.4	+ 3	+ 1
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	437.2	437.5	421.0	+ 4	x
Durable goods	207.9	207.0	200.3	+ 4	x
Ordnance	11.7	11.3	11.9	— 2	+ 4
Lumber and wood products	27.6	27.6	29.3	— 6	0
Furniture and fixtures	10.6	10.4	10.0	+ 6	+ 2
Stone, clay, and glass	15.7	15.6	15.3	+ 3	+ 1
Primary metals	22.3	21.9	16.9	+ 32	+ 2
Fabricated metal products	17.4	17.5	15.6	+ 12	— 1
Machinery (except electrical)	37.3	37.6	37.1	+ 1	— 1
Electrical equipment	3.7	3.7	3.1	+ 19	0
Transportation equipment	55.6	55.5	55.4	x	x
Other durable goods	6.0	5.9	5.7	+ 5	+ 2
Nondurable goods	229.3	230.5	220.7	+ 4	— 1
Food	62.1	62.9	64.1	— 3	— 1
Textile mill products	9.4	9.4	9.2	+ 2	0
Apparel	32.0	32.9	29.6	+ 8	— 3
Paper and allied products	7.0	6.8	6.6	+ 6	+ 3
Printing and publishing	25.0	25.3	24.1	+ 4	— 1
Chemical and allied products	39.3	39.5	36.1	+ 9	+ 1
Petroleum products	49.5	48.7	46.6	+ 6	+ 2
Leather and products	2.5	2.5	2.3	+ 9	0
Other nondurable goods	2.5	2.5	2.1	+ 19	0
TOTAL NONMANUFACTURING	1,844.3	1,830.4	1,794.4	+ 3	— 1
Mining	131.0	126.9	123.7	+ 6	+ 3
Petroleum and natural gas	123.8	120.0	117.1	+ 6	+ 3
Metal, coal, and other mining	7.2	6.9	6.6	+ 9	+ 4
Contract construction	173.6	168.8	176.1	— 1	+ 3
Transportation and utilities	235.2	232.5	233.4	— 1	+ 1
Interstate railroads	66.3	65.7	66.6	x	+ 1
Other transportation	95.6	94.4	95.1	+ 1	+ 1
Telephone and telegraph	37.3	37.4	37.0	+ 1	x
Public utilities	36.0	35.0	34.7	+ 4	+ 3
Government	324.5	328.0	320.6	+ 1	— 1
Trade	605.2	603.9	584.0	+ 4	x
Wholesale trade	149.7	149.7	151.7	— 1	0
Retail trade	455.5	454.2	432.3	+ 5	x
General merchandise	79.1	80.4	76.4	+ 4	— 2
Food and liquor stores	76.9	76.5	72.0	+ 7	+ 1
Automotive	52.4	51.8	50.2	+ 4	+ 1
Apparel	27.5	28.1	28.3	— 3	— 2
Other retail trade	219.6	217.4	205.4	+ 7	+ 1
Finance, insurance, and real estate	96.3	95.5	88.8	+ 8	+ 1
Banks and trust companies	24.8	24.5	22.1	+ 12	+ 1
Insurance	38.1	37.9	35.3	+ 8	+ 1
Real estate and finance	33.4	33.1	31.4	+ 6	+ 1
Service and miscellaneous	278.5	274.8	267.8	+ 4	+ 1
Hotels and lodging places	25.5	25.6	25.6	x	x
Laundries and cleaners	31.1	30.5	30.8	+ 1	+ 2
Other business services	221.9	218.7	211.4	+ 5	+ 1

xChange is less than one half of one percent.
*Preliminary.

FINANCE

Bank investments gain. Investments of the weekly reporting member banks of the Eleventh Federal Reserve District in U. S. Government securities increased 6% during June (from $1,085 million to $1,154 million). Explaining this upward surge is the fact that during June, yields of these securities reached the highest point in almost two decades. Most of the increase in holdings was in Treasury bills, up 76% from $85 million to $150 million. Treasury certificates of indebtedness accounted for the remainder of the gains with a 9% increase to $120 million. Slight decreases in holdings of Treasury notes and United States bonds were reported.

Bank loans shrink slightly. For the first half of June, bank loans, particularly agricultural, commercial, and industrial, continued the slight downward trend obvious since early February. Increases during the final week of June, however, left the total figure barely changed from that for the same period a month earlier.

Deposits increase. Total deposits of the reporting banks rose $34 million (1%) to a total of $3,072 million at the end of June. Accounting for this increase were supplementary U. S. Government deposits (up from $36 million to $92 million) and a 2% gain in time deposits ($560 million to $570 million). Marked gains were also reported in interbank deposits, the month-end total of $854 million being 21% greater than the $703 million recorded a month earlier.

Revenue collections show contrasting picture. Texas revenue receipts for the current fiscal year continue to run ahead of last year's levels. At the end of June over $616 million in receipts had been counted by the State Comptroller of Public Accounts; last year the comparable total, 8% less, was $537 million. Nearly all categories of tax receipts registered gains. In contrast to state collections, federal receipts in Texas for the current fiscal year were 4% below their year-ago level. The loss is almost wholly explained by a 5% reduction in total income tax payments.

RAYMOND V. LESIKAR

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS

Source: Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Treasury Department

Source	July 1-June 30 1953	1952	Percent change
TEXAS	$2,198,642,829	$2,194,766,738	x
Income	1,307,686,463	1,358,428,386	— 4
Employment	20,385,302	21,392,836	— 5
Withholding	693,868,883	651,934,594	+ 6
Other	176,752,181	163,010,922	+ 8
FIRST DISTRICT	1,180,461,602	1,206,930,021	— 2
Income	723,731,107	755,998,058	— 4
Employment	3,860,483	5,102,226	— 24
Withholding	355,626,636	360,744,224	— 1
Other	97,243,376	85,085,513	+ 14
SECOND DISTRICT	1,018,181,228	987,836,717	+ 3
Income	583,905,355	602,430,328	— 3
Employment	16,524,819	16,290,610	+ 1
Withholding	338,242,249	291,190,370	+ 16
Other	79,508,805	77,925,409	+ 2

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER

Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Source	September 1-June 30 1952–53	1951–52	Percent change
TOTAL	$616,892,914	$573,812,061	+ 8
AD VALOREM TAX	26,137,922	24,112,440	+ 8
INHERITANCE TAX	5,547,061	5,140,244	+ 8
POLL TAX	1,559,321	2,651,406	— 41
GROSS RECEIPTS—UTILITIES AND TELEPHONE	6,182,802	5,463,915	+ 13
GROSS PRODUCTION			
Natural and casinghead gas	17,719,546	14,826,108	+ 20
Gas gathering tax	1,093,846	3,687,877	— 70
Crude oil	102,857,669	99,901,255	+ 3
Other	8,400,931	8,717,884	— 4
LICENSES AND FEES			
Occupation taxes	19,579,035	16,049,379	+ 22
Net motor fuel tax	90,728,186	86,348,679	+ 5
Cigarette tax and licenses	29,463,919	28,737,670	+ 3
Alcoholic beverage tax and licenses	16,071,599	15,716,845	+ 2
Sales taxes	16,084,844	14,690,465	+ 9
Other	15,252,568	14,447,961	+ 6
FRANCHISE TAXES	13,913,509	13,754,474	+ 1
UNCLASSIFIED RECEIPTS			
Mineral leases, rentals, and bonuses	28,798,185	20,139,760	+ 43
Oil and gas royalties	16,666,989	15,026,649	+ 11
Interest on securities owned	13,091,411	11,317,044	+ 16
Motor vehicle licenses, permits, and fees	37,317,288	33,916,237	+ 10
Sale of commodities	7,768,409	3,978,721	+ 95
Other	8,720,337	8,001,704	+ 9
FEDERAL AID			
Highways	22,817,569	25,580,499	— 11
Public health	8,835,113	8,318,179	+ 6
Public welfare	77,339,771	59,827,553	+ 29
Public education	7,361,753	15,128,179	— 51
Other	1,624,129	1,212,832	+ 34
DONATIONS	55,373	65,403	— 15
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION TAXES	15,403,829	16,549,699	— 7

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY-REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change* June 1953 from June 1952	June 1953 from May 1953	June 1952 from May 1952
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 8	+ 2	+ 4
Loans	+ 12	x	+ 2
Total U.S. Government securities	— 6	+ 6	+ 6
Treasury bills	— 22	+ 76	— 2
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	— 30	+ 9	+ 2
Treasury notes	+ 2	— 1	+ 1
Bonds	+ 2	— 1	+ 12
Other securities	+ 11	— 2	— 1
Reserve with Federal Reserve Banks	— 7	— 4	+ 8
Cash in vaults	+ 5	+ 2	— 11
Balances with domestic banks	+ 14	+ 27	+ 15
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+ 2	+ 1	+ 4
Demand deposits (adjusted)	+ 4	— 1	— 2
Time deposits	+ 24	+ 2	0
U. S. Government deposits	— 60	+156	+179
Interbank deposits	+ 8	+ 21	+ 16
Domestic banks	+ 8	+ 21	+ 16
Foreign banks	0	+ 13	+ 13
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 11	0	x

*Percentage changes are based on the day nearest the end of the month.

xChange is less than one half of one percent.

Tin: f.o.b. Texas City

It was Easter morning, April 5, 1942, and the war was 17 weeks old. On Bataan there was savage fighting all day, and U.S. newscasters announced that enemy submarines had sunk two more Allied ships off the coast of Virginia. The news from Texas barely had a chance of making the front pages of the Sunday papers. But in all probability, it was the best news of the day: at Texas City, the Longhorn Tin Smelter, world's largest and the only major one in the Americas, went into operation.

Up to that time, supplies of the vitally needed, soft metal had been almost wholly imported from Old World smelters under British, Dutch, and Belgian control. When the outbreak of war in Europe threatened some of these sources, our government set up the Metals Reserve Company to build a stockpile of tin and other metals. As early as February 1941, considerable quantities of tin were on hand. Yet it seemed advisable to establish a smelter in this country in the interests of national defense. Aircraft engines and the motors of mechanized army units turned on bronze and babbitt bearings, almost impossible to make without a certain proportion of tin. Electronic equipment for military use required tin solder. And there were other important applications for the metal.

If a stockpile had not already been built up by the MRC, war production might have been impeded by a tin shortage before the Longhorn plant went into operation. With the German invasion of the Low Countries, the large refining capacity of Belgium and the Netherlands was lost to the Allies, although a limited amount of the tin ore mined in the Belgian Congo was smelted there and shipped to the United States. Within months, Japan had captured the tin resources of the Far East, from which most of the world's supplies had previously come. Mines in Malaya and the Indies and major refineries at Singapore and Penang fell into enemy hands. Furthermore, the smaller smelters in Australia were cut off from their source of ore, and China was barely accessible to the Western Powers. The free world was left with only two major tin refining centers, England, with four principal smelters, and Texas, with the Tin Processing Corporation at Texas City.

Before the opening of the Longhorn plant, tin smelting in this country had been a tenuous business; its output was irregular and small. As early as 1903 the International Tin Company had opened a unit at Bayonne, New Jersey, to smelt Malayan ore concentrates; but the enterprise soon failed owing to the high export duties placed by Great Britain on those tin ores shipped to non-English smelters. The American Smelting and Refining Company plant at Maurer, New Jersey, and the Williams, Harvey and Company plant, backed by British, American, and Bolivian interests, were built and operated during World War I. Both of these were constructed specifically to take advantage of a 100% rise in the price of refined tin. With war's end, the drop in tin prices coupled with higher labor and ore costs than those of competing foreign smelters forced them to shut down. From then until 1942, U. S. tin was all purchased from foreign smelters, except for the secondary tin tonnage recovered at detinning plants in this country.

But the experience after World War I indicated that private enterprise might not wish to incur the financial risks of constructing and operating plants that could not compete successfully with established low-cost operations in Europe and Asia. Therefore, the United States government, through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, began the task of establishing the Longhorn Tin Smelter.

The RFC gave the assignment to build and operate a plant to the Tin Processing Corporation, a subsidiary of the N. V. Billiton Maatschappij, a Dutch firm, chosen because of its successful experience over an extended period in smelting Bolivian ores.

Bolivian tin ore was selected for processing by reason of its nearness to the United States and relative safety from German and Japanese interference. In 1940 the government concluded a five-year treaty with Bolivia to purchase all Bolivian tin ore except the output of the large Patiño mines. At that time the Patiño mines had a 10-year contract with the British providing for the smelting of all their ore in England. However, by early 1944, the British tin supply had become so improved that substantial amounts of Patiño ore were shifted to the Texas smelter.

Since imported ore was to be used, it became obvious that the plant should be located on or near the coast. After a search by the National Resources Planning Board for suitable sites, Texas City was chosen because of its proximity to the ore deposits and because of the availability of a large supply of natural gas and hydrochloric acid, two commodities consumed in large quantities in the production of tin.

The Texas City smelter was originally designed to produce 18,000 long tons of pure tin annually, about a sixth of the prewar U. S. consumption. The 1940 total of tin used, 115,497 long tons, was far in excess of the domestic aggregate recovery of secondary tin, only 29,700 tons.

Before operations began in Texas City, U. S. supplies of tin came from smelters controlled by the British and Dutch. In the face of this virtual monopoly, the position of American stocks was extremely precarious.

Operations at the Longhorn Tin Smelter started in the spring of 1942; by December of that year 15,695 long tons of pure tin, 87% of the quota, had flowed from the smelter. Loss of the two large tin smelting plants at

Singapore and Penang to the Japanese resulted in unexpected dependence upon the Texas center, and plans to expand output to a point commensurate with the needs of the United Nations were set in motion. The possibility that the enemy might damage tin smelters in England and the Belgian Congo was considered. In 1943 an official at the Longhorn Smelter announced that the productive capacity of the plant would be increased to 94,800 tons annually. At this time the installations in Texas and England were the only major smelters left in the hands of the United Nations. Production from the Texas plant increased rapidly—from 20,727 long tons in 1943 to 40,591 in 1945. Output of 43,468 long tons, approximately 44% of the total world production, was reached in 1946.

Since then, rehabilitation of smelters in Europe and Malaya, together with higher ore prices, has caused production at Texas City to fall. In 1952, when operations closed down during the summer months, production was at a postwar low of 22,541 long tons.

Domestic consumption of primary and secondary tin, on the other hand, had not fallen correspondingly. Sustained use by various manufacturers accounted for 74,881 long tons of the metal during 1952. The self-evident need for continued supplies has moved Congress to approve legislation extending the cost-plus-fixed-fee arrangement with the Tin Processing Corporation for five years through June 30, 1956.

The Texas City plant was designed to smelt low-grade ores as well as high tin-content material. During the war years, approximately 70,500 tons of ore were received annually at Texas City. The vast majority of the stocks, averaging 59,000 tons yearly, were low-grade 42% tin ores from Bolivia. To these supplies were added annual stocks of 74% metal-content concentrates from the Belgian Congo (6,300 tons) and Indonesia (4,500 tons from stockpiles obtained before Japanese occupation).

Since the Japanese surrender, increased quantities of high-grade tin ore from Southeast Asia have arrived. In 1950 about 20,200 tons, with an average tin-content of 73.3%, were imported from Indonesia and Siam. Bolivian concentrates, amounting to 50,600 tons and averaging only 34% tin, continued to make up the largest percentage of the the receipts at the Longhorn smelter. Light shipments from the Belgian Congo and smaller quantities from other sources brought the total ore at the smelter to 74,500 tons for 1950.

Tin prices, long subject to rapid changes in level, recently fell to about 85 cents a pound from more than $1.21 in March. This present price for Straits tin (metal at least 99.75% pure) is the lowest since July 1950.

On August 16, 1941, the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply established a ceiling price of 52 cents a pound for Straits tin, a price that remained in force until November 12, 1946, when price controls were removed. Thereafter, the price was increased steadily by the RFC, until a set price of $1.03 was reached. This remained in effect until September 28, 1949. A series of separate markdowns then lowered the price to less than 74 cents by February 1950.

In March, following the session of the International Tin Study Group, the falling price pattern halted and even improved slightly. On the eve of the North Korean invasion, the price was 76¾ cents. At this point the upward movement hastened, especially with the prospect of reduced offerings by the British Ministry of Supply. By December 30, 1950, the price for Straits tin was quoted at $1.51. Less than a month later, the New York price was the highest on record, $1.84 a pound.

Shortly, the United States began curtailing purchases of both ores and metal. Imports in 1951, in terms of metal content, dropped to 29,248 tons, and the price fell to $1.03 in December. Imports from Bolivia, representing 12,869 tons of tin, dropped to their lowest level since smelting operations began at Longhorn.

The RFC, the sole importer of tin from March 1951 until August 1952, began to be concerned about the declining stocks of ore but refused to meet the price of $1.50 demanded by the Bolivians. In January 1952, negotiations between representatives of the British and United States governments resulted in an exchange of American steel for British tin and aluminum. The United Kingdom agreed to sell 20,000 tons of Malayan tin for $1.18 a pound over a twelve-month period. The stalemate was broken. The price of tin quickly rose just above $1.21 per pound where it remained until the recent price decline.

Although the United States has had no long-term contract with Bolivia for almost two years, concentrates containing 12,495 tons of tin were purchased during 1952. Recent developments indicate that the long Bolivian tin controversy, which culminated in the nationalization of the large tin mining companies by the new revolutionary government headed by President Víctor Paz Estenssoro, is about to be ended. Our State Department has held that no contract would be signed until American stockholders recover their losses. This position has brought forth assurances from the Bolivian government that holders will be recompensed for their investment.

Through war and peace, tin remains one of the most indispensable of metals. While the public mind usually associates the metal with tin cans, this is but one of the more important of a number of essential uses. Consumption figures for 1952 reveal that tin and terneplate took 38% of primary and secondary tin production. Most tin plate went into the manufacture of tin cans while terneplate, made by coating sheet steel with a tin and lead alloy, was used in the fabrication of roofing material, automobile gas tanks, oil cans, and other manufactured products requiring a thick, rugged coating. The manufacture of bronze and brass took the second greatest quantity of tin, and third was solder manufacture. Collapsible tubes and foil, which formerly required substantial amounts of tin, are now being fabricated primarily of aluminum, partly to take advantage of inherent qualities which are not possessed by tin and partly to conserve tin. The quantities of tin required in the manufacture of babbitt metal and type metal and in tinning have held steady over the years. Of the total quantity of tin consumed in the United States during 1952, practically two-thirds of the tonnage was primary metal from the Longhorn and foreign smelters, with the Texas smelter contributing approximately half of this primary tonnage. Secondary tin tonnage comes from various detinning plants in this country, where tin-containing waste and by-products are processed to recover the metal in the most economical

manner. The waste products processed include (*a*) materials of an oxidic character, such as tin ash, liquation residues, and slags; and (*b*) materials of a predominantly metallic character, such as tin-plate wastes from the plate and canning industry and tin alloys.

The Longhorn Smelter is constructed to handle all grades of tin ore from the pure alluvial concentrates to the lowest-grade primary ores. The process used depends upon the chemical composition and the physical properties of the tin compound.

In the case of pure alluvial ores which contain only small amounts of impurities, a single two-step reduction process in reverberatory furnaces is sufficient to yield a high recovery of top-purity metal. Approximately half the tin mixtures processed at the Longhorn Smelter, however, are primary ores and concentrates from Bolivia, containing base metals in such large quantities that reverberatory smelting would yield a low-grade metal of limited use. In addition to their high base metal content, most Bolivian ores contain excessive sulfur which must also be eliminated before subjecting the ores to reverberatory smelting. Often the iron content of Bolivian ores is excessive for direct smelting, and in the low grades the percentage of silica is also high.

Upon arrival at the smelters, the ores are weighed, sampled, and stored in piles according to their required treatment. Most ores received come under the less-than-10%-silica-content classification. These ores are powdered, with or without a reducing agent, and cooled to room temperature, thus making for their ready solubility in hot hydrochloric acid. Dust losses occur in these powdering kilns, owing to the extreme fineness of the ore, but the dust is caught, precipitated in a dust collector, and immediately returned to the kiln. Cooled gas from the kilns is further treated in an installation which precipitates the remaining dust together with the fumes. The precipitate from this latter installation has a high percentage of arsenic and antimony and requires separate treatment.

The medium- and low-grade ores received at the plant generally contain excessive amounts of worthless rock, vein matter, and iron compounds. These ores fall into two groups. In the first group the percentage of base metals is sufficiently low to allow direct smelting which will yield an alloy of tin from which pure metal may be produced. The worthless rock, vein matter and iron compounds are carried off in the slag together with a small amount of tin. In the other group, in which metallic impurities are too high to yield a clean alloy of tin by smelting, a roasting and leaching process must be employed first. Generally, these ores become free-milling following this treatment, so that the residues yield high-grade concentrates in the dressing plant. In some cases it is necessary to repeat the roasting and leaching process to obtain a residue sufficiently high-grade to warrant sending through the reverberatory furnace.

Smelting in the natural-gas-fired reverberatory furnace is a two-step process. In the first step a limited quantity of the reducing agent is used so that metallic tin, practically free from iron, is obtained. After this operation the slag still carries considerable tin. In the second step, the primary slag is further reduced to a low tin content in the final slag. This is brought about by introducing a great amount of iron which combines with the tin to form an alloy called "hardhead." This alloy, which usually contains over 80% tin, is treated simultaneously with the ore in the first operation, whereby the iron acts as a reducing agent.

Texas-produced tin is cast in bars or pigs weighing about 83 pounds and trademarked "LONGHORN THREE STAR" (two stars and one star have been used on lower-grade products no longer made). The present rated yearly capacity of the smelter is 96,000 tons of finished tin assaying 99.75% purity or better.

The future of the Longhorn Smelter is closely linked with the future use of tin in this country. During the last decade, a strenuous effort has been made to find substitutes for tin. World War II gave such impetus to the search that we are now close to rendering the metal noncritical.

In the case of tinplate manufacture, long the greatest use of tin, new methods and substitutes have sharply reduced the required tin tonnage. Wider use of the economical electrolytic tinplating method (the coating of tin on one side only, or just sufficient coverage for minimum external protection and solderability), the use of lacquer-coated black plate, elimination of the solder by welding or side-seam cements, and the use of aluminum-coated steel are but a few of the means by which the use of tin in the canning industry has been reduced. If cost were not a consideration, widespread substitution of other metals for tin in plating would be possible.

Reduction of the use of tin in solder is feasible, but here again cost is a factor, and it is likely that no sharp reduction in this use will come about in the foreseeable future.

The amount of tin used in collapsible tubes and foil has also grown steadily smaller, its place having been taken by aluminum and lead. Bronze and babbitt are gradually having their tin content reduced, and titanium is taking tin's place in bronze.

On the other side of the balance are the new tin-containing alloys being developed by the electroplating industry. These alloys are expected to consume substantial quantities of tin. Meanwhile, in the field of electronics, tin in its capacity as a semiconductor may play an increasingly important role in transistors, devices being developed to replace the vacuum tube in many uses. While this use may not take many tons of the metal initially, it is the type of development that could drastically change the picture for tin.

In summing up, the future for tin does not appear as bright as that for other metals, such as aluminum, magnesium, titanium, and molybdenum. Its production should show modest growth, however, probably somewhat under the average growth shown for other metals. Reserves of tin ores appear to be adequate for at least 25 years' production at current or slightly increased rates. Finally, while efforts to make tin a noncritical metal continue, the tendency seems to be to maintain the status quo as regards its production, for we are secure in the knowledge that soon we shall be in such a position that an emergency will find us able to take tin or leave it.

FRANK T. CADENA

Local Business

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
ABILENE: (pop. 45,570)			
Retail sales	.....	— 1	— 8
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 3	— 22
Postal receipts	$ 53,336	+ 2	— 5
Value of building permits	$ 1,463,133	— 5	+142
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 51,172	x	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 51,162	— 4	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.2	+ 4	+ 1
Employment	25,450	— 3	x
Manufacturing employment	3,340	+ 5	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.6	+ 26	+ 40
Air express shipments	259	+ 27	— 8
Telephones in service	22,698	+ 7	.....
ALICE: (pop. 16,449)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,628	+ 1	+ 3
Value of building permits	$ 82,100	+ 7	— 38
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 11,778	.....	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,104	.....	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.0	.....	0
Air express shipments	12	+ 7	— 14
ALPINE: (pop. 5,261)			
Postal receipts	$ 3,492	— 3	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 2,000	+ 12	— 83
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,053	— 10	— 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,987	— 5	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.2	— 6	— 2
Air express shipments	8	— 31	— 38
AMARILLO: (pop. 74,246)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 6	— 1
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 15	— 18
Drug stores*	.....	— 9	— 1
Office, store, and school supply dealers*	.....	— 14	— 9
Postal receipts	$ 115,408	+ 6	— 2
Value of building permits	$ 1,040,138	— 7	— 27
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 132,499	— 3	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 105,863	— 4	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.4	+ 2	+ 4
Employment	42,950	+ 5	— 1
Manufacturing employment	5,060	+ 12	— 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	6.2	+ 43	+ 27
Air express shipments	676	+ 45	— 7
Telephones in service	43,608	+ 12	.....
ARLINGTON: (pop. 7,692)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,602	+ 34	x
Value of building permits	$ 893,155	.....	— 11
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 8,257	+ 36	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 9,993	+ 53	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	— 12	+ 3
BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,983)			
Postal receipts	$ 15,072	+ 5	+ 8
Value of building permits	$ 119,220	— 21	— 36
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 18,348	+ 9	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 18,934	+ 7	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.6	+ 2	+ 8
Employment (area)	355,800	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment (area)	84,850	+ 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.1	+ 8	+ 15
Telephones in service	8,553	+ 3	.....

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
AUSTIN: (pop. 132,459)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 14	— 5
Automotive stores	.....	+ 25	— 14
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 1	— 18
Eating and drinking places	.....	+ 15	— 21
Filling stations	.....	+ 1	x
Food stores	.....	+ 2	x
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	— 30	+ 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	+ 16	+ 19
Postal receipts	$ 202,184	+ 7	+ 2
Value of building permits	$ 2,251,835	+ 3	— 35
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 116,207	+ 6	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 101,144	— 8	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.3	.....	+ 6
Air express shipments	607	+ 32	— 4
Telephones in service	59,271	+ 4	.....
BEAUMONT: (pop. 94,014)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 9	— 5
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 21	— 9
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 2	— 9
Eating and drinking places*	.....	— 1	— 4
Food stores*	.....	— 4	+ 1
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	+ 32	+ 2
General merchandise stores*	.....	+ 1	— 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	— 9	+ 14
Postal receipts	$ 76,143	+ 9	— 3
Value of building permits	$ 507,758	— 22	— 7
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 129,880	+ 5	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 94,519	— 1	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.3	+ 6	+ 3
Air express shipments	289	— 10	+ 5
Waterborne commerce (tons)	41,876	— 1	+ 28
Telephones in service	40,489	+ 3	.....
BEEVILLE: (pop. 9,348)			
Postal receipts	$ 7,135	+ 4	+ 42
Value of building permits	$ 10,815	— 26	+ 20
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,734	+ 6	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 11,846	x	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.9	+ 8	— 5
Air express shipments	5	+141	— 38
BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,286)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 8	— 15
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 1	— 21
Postal receipts	$ 17,811	+ 5	+ 28
Value of building permits	$ 41,040	— 63	— 88
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,231	— 8	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 23,521	— 8	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.4	+ 1	+ 3
Air express shipments	75	+ 15	+ 44
Telephones in service	8,172	+ 18	.....
BRENHAM: (pop. 6,941)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,833	+ 6	+ 17
Value of building permits	$ 38,650	+ 30	— 55
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,655	— 1	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 9,867	+ 3	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.9	— 3	+ 6

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

Conditions

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,066)			
Retail sales*	.....	x	− 16
Department and apparel stores	.....	− 8	− 34
Postal receipts	$ 18,942	x	x
Value of building permits	$ 171,915	+ 38	− 68
Air express shipments	373	− 13	+ 6
Waterborne commerce (tons)	77,074	+ 11	x
Telephones in service	8,694	+ 6	----
BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,181)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 5	− 6
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 6	− 11
Postal receipts	$ 14,577	− 2	− 1
Value of building permits	$ 38,888	− 34	+ 50
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,006	− 15	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,943	x	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.4	− 15	+ 4
Air express shipments	13	− 19	− 32
CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,287)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 15	+ 3
Apparel stores	.....	− 1	+ 3
Automotive stores	.....	+ 22	+ 6
Country general stores	.....	− 12	− 10
Department store sales†	.....	+ 13	+ 2
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	+ 1	+ 10
Postal receipts	$ 116,599	+ 7	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 1,638,198	+ 21	− 4
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 152,443	+ 10	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 110,175	+ 7	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.7	+ 3	+ 8
Employment	60,900	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment	7,510	+ 8	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.8	+ 48	+ 23
Air express shipments	371	+ 17	− 22
Waterborne commerce (tons)	1,998,805	+ 4	− 13
Telephones in service	51,694	+ 8	----
DALLAS: (pop. 434,462)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 6	− 8
Apparel stores*	.....	+ 4	− 14
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 31	− 14
Department store sales†	.....	+ 5	− 14
Drug stores*	.....	− 1	− 3
Eating and drinking places*	.....	x	− 9
Farm and garden supply dealers*	.....	− 16	− 29
Filling stations*	.....	+ 4	+ 1
Florists*	.....	− 3	− 23
Food stores*	.....	+ 4	− 8
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	+ 8	+ 5
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	− 5	+ 6
Office, store, and school supply dealers*	.....	+ 16	− 22
Postal receipts	$ 1,423,027	+ 10	− 2
Value of building permits	$ 8,179,853	+ 29	− 6
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,618,612	+ 15	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 892,418	− 7	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	22.1	+ 23	− 3
Employment	291,965	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment	75,735	+ 10	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	2.6	+ 10	+ 18
Air express shipments	7,831	+ 2	− 12
Telephones in service	279,363	+ 5	----

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
CORSICANA: (pop. 19,211)			
Department and apparel stores sales	.....	− 5	− 11
Postal receipts	$ 22,006	+ 19	+ 86
Value of building permits	$ 115,810	− 27	+ 80
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,399	− 2	+ 15
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 19,655	− 7	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.7	+ 7	+ 17
Telephones in service	6,696	+ 2	----
DEL RIO: (pop. 14,211)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,466	+ 26	+ 4
Value of building permits	$ 32,580	− 19	− 8
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,411	+ 21	− 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,137	− 1	− 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.7	+ 22	− 20
Air express shipments	14	− 4	− 7
DENISON: (pop. 17,504)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 15	− 2
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 5	+ 2
Postal receipts	$ 11,516	− 1	− 1
Value of building permits	$ 42,652	+ 74	− 53
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 11,917	+ 11	− 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 16,016	+ 22	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.2	− 9	− 12
Telephones in service	7,241	x	----
DENTON: (pop. 21,372)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 11	− 17
Department and apparel stores	.....	x	− 36
Postal receipts	$ 18,710	x	− 2
Value of building permits	$ 238,797	+ 16	+ 96
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 10,477	x	+ 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,720	+ 8	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.4	− 8	+ 3
EAGLE PASS: (pop. 7,276)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,819	+ 2	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 31,420	+253	− 85
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,224	----	− 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,056	----	− 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.3	----	+ 3
Air express shipments	17	+ 9	0
EL PASO: (pop. 130,485)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 5	− 9
Apparel stores*	.....	+ 2	− 20
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 5	− 7
Department store sales†	.....	+ 7	− 5
Drug stores*	.....	+ 10	− 6
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	+ 12	− 13
General merchandise stores*	.....	+ 1	− 1
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	+ 18	+ 17
Office, store, and school supply dealers*	.....	+ 37	+ 8
Piano stores*	.....	+ 13	− 21
Postal receipts	$ 178,407	+ 1	+ 5
Value of building permits	$ 1,564,108	+101	− 35
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 193,837	+ 19	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 119,853	− 7	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.8	+ 27	+ 8
Employment	66,900	+ 5	x
Manufacturing employment	10,640	+ 8	+ 3
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.6	+ 17	0
Air express shipments	1,409	+ 18	− 2
Tourists entering Mexico	3,925	− 8	+ 28
Tourist cars entering Mexico	1,447	− 5	+ 34

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
EDINBURG (pop. 12,383)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,120	+ 5	+ 16
Value of building permits	$ 7,644	— 1	— 86
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 8,701	— 2	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,920	+ 9	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.5	— 9	+ 8
Air express shipments	6	+ 25	— 50
Telephones in service	3,109	+ 4	.....
FORT WORTH: (pop. 278,778)			
Retail sales*	.....	— 3	— 7
Apparel stores*	.....	+ 7	— 17
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 15	+ 1
Department store sales†	.....	— 1	— 8
Drug stores*	.....	+ 9	— 5
Eating and drinking places*	.....	— 5	— 1
Filling stations*	.....	— 7	+ 8
Food stores*	.....	+ 7	— 7
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	— 7	— 11
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	— 8	— 8
Postal receipts	$ 452,080	+ 6	— 2
Value of building permits	$ 5,461,992	— 7	+ 84
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 646,989	+ 8	+ 31
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 340,248	— 9	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	23.4	+ 19	+ 29
Employment	161,900	+ 1	x
Manufacturing employment	52,430	— 4	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.3	+ 12	+ 10
Air express shipments	1,682	— 6	— 18
Telephones in service	153,457	+ 8	.....
GALVESTON: (pop. 66,568)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 3	— 3
Automotive stores	.....	+ 31	+ 6
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 2	— 14
Eating and drinking places	.....	— 6	+ 9
Food stores	.....	— 2	— 4
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	+ 12	— 3
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	— 17	+ 16
Postal receipts	$ 63,071	— 2	— 5
Value of building permits	$ 172,166	+101	— 17
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 78,953	— 1	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 81,442	— 15	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.9	+ 16	+ 4
Air express shipments	466	+ 31	— 5
Telephones in service	28,981	+ 1	.....
GARLAND: (pop. 10,571)			
Postal receipts	$ 9,167	+ 7	— 3
Value of building permits	$ 751,722	+ 9	+ 40
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 10,020	+ 22	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,515	+ 21	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.1	+ 1	+ 23
GLADEWATER: (pop. 5,305)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,157	+ 2	— 12
Value of building permits	$ 39,000	.....	— 22
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,109	+ 7	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,548	+ 8	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.6	— 1	— 10
Air express shipments	1	— 21	— 88
GONZALES: (pop. 5,659)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,667	+ 3	— 2
Value of building permits	$ 18,500	— 21	+ 22
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,765	— 8	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,041	+ 2	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.4	— 9	+ 12
Telephones in service	1,770	+ 4	.....
GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,727)			
Retail sales*	.....	.....	x
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 2	— 8
Postal receipts	$ 15,923	x	+ 6
Value of building permits	$ 110,639	— 23	+ 47
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,014	x	+ 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,439	x	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.5	+ 1	+ 13
HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,229)			
Retail sales*	.....	.....	+ 7
Postal receipts	$ 23,640	+ 22	+ 8
Value of building permits	$ 86,700	— 2	— 42
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 26,789	+ 4	+ 21
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 19,944	— 3	+ 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.9	+ 8	+ 17
Air express shipments	77	+ 17	+ 38
Telephones in service	9,829	+ 18	.....
HENDERSON: (pop. 6,833)			
Retail sales*	.....	.....	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 7,644	x	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 51,400	+134	+ 56
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,051	— 17	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,518	+ 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.4	— 19	+ 2
HOUSTON: (pop. 596,163)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 25	— 3
Apparel stores*	.....	+ 25	— 15
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 54	— 2
Department store sales†	.....	+ 8	— 6
Drug stores*	.....	— 14	— 6
Eating and drinking places*	.....	+ 6	— 5
Filling stations*	.....	+ 2	+ 8
Food stores*	.....	+ 18	— 8
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	— 7	— 4
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	— 1	+ 15
Postal receipts	$ 862,553	+ 9	— 6
Value of building permits	$21,258,342	+ 35	+ 91
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 1,713,193	+ 8	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 1,064,156	— 2	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.6	+ 10	+ 5
Employment (area)	355,800	+ 4	x
Manufacturing employment (area)	84,850	+ 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.1	+ 8	+ 15
Air express shipments	4,214	— 2	— 8
Telephones in service	346,410	+ 9	.....
HEREFORD: (pop. 5,207)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,455	+ 7	+ 24
Value of building permits	$ 45,500	— 10	— 26
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,165	+ 2	+ 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,201	+ 10	— 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.9	— 7	+ 15
LAMESA: (pop. 10,704)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,431	— 6	+ 12
Value of building permits	$ 12,000	— 32	+500
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,116	— 26	— 7
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,169	— 18	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.9	— 9	— 6
Telephones in service	2,868	+ 11	.....

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
KILLEEN: (pop. 7,045)			
Postal receipts	$ 16,470	− 47	+ 15
Value of building permits	$ 49,390	.....	+237
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,229	− 27	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,077	+ 2	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.1	− 30	+ 4
LAMPASAS: (pop. 4,869)			
Retail sales*	.....	.....	− 5
Postal receipts	$ 2,956	− 5	+ 6
Value of building permits	$ 26,150	− 29	+4258
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,119	− 5	− 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,791	+ 3	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	− 8	− 4
LAREDO: (pop. 51,910)			
Department and apparel stores sales	.....	− 2	− 19
Postal receipts	$ 22,076	+ 12	− 13
Value of building permits	$ 26,175	+201	− 75
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,097	− 5	− 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 18,961	− 11	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.7	+ 7	0
Air express shipments	143	− 24	− 14
Telephones in service	10,099	+ 13	.....
Tourists entering Mexico	11,198	− 21	+ 24
Tourist cars entering Mexico	4,143	− 12	+ 48
LLANO: (pop. 2,954)			
Postal receipts	$ 1,682	− 4	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 9,000	− 24	− 31
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,115	− 19	− 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,497	− 1	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	− 17	− 12
LOCKHART: (pop. 5,573)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,861	+ 5	+ 14
Value of building permits	$ 15,850	− 71	+ 89
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,646	− 2	− 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,459	+ 7	− 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.1	− 13	− 10
LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,502)			
Postal receipts	$ 27,605	+ 6	+ 15
Value of building permits	$ 337,882	− 34	− 3
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 32,847	+ 2	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 36,676	+ 6	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.9	− 1	+ 1
Air express shipments	175	+ 42	− 5
Telephones in service	12,588	+ 7	.....
LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,747)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 10	− 14
Automotive stores	.....	+ 16	− 10
Department and apparel stores	.....	x	− 21
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	+ 46	− 7
General merchandise stores	.....	x	− 23
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	+ 10	− 7
Postal receipts	$ 78,745	+ 5	+ 6
Value of building permits	$ 1,323,093	+ 14	+ 11
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 95,929	+ 3	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 82,507	− 6	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.2	+ 9	+ 2
Employment	32,950	+ 8	0
Manufacturing employment	3,430	+ 7	− 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	6.3	+ 26	+ 80
Air express shipments	721	+135	− 6
Telephones in service	33,557	+ 8	.....
LUFKIN: (pop. 15,135)			
Postal receipts	$ 13,009	+ 5	− 7
Value of building permits	$ 28,200	− 7	− 56
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 18,989	+ 7	+ 16
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 21,368	+ 10	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.8	− 4	+ 14
Air express shipments	31	+ 18	− 21
McALLEN: (pop. 20,067)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 10	− 12
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 7	− 30
Postal receipts	$ 14,361	+ 1	− 5
Value of building permits	$ 105,600	+ 86	+ 67
Air express shipments	60	+ 9	+ 71
Telephones in service	6,844	+ 8	.....
MARLIN: (pop. 7,099)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,684	− 3	+ 13
Value of building permits	$ 27,586	− 59	+ 17
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,933	− 7	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 4,240	− 17	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.4	+ 11	+ 9
MARSHALL: (pop. 22,327)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 5	− 9
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 10	+ 7
Postal receipts	$ 15,675	+ 11	− 14
Value of building permits	$ 154,446	+ 78	+ 49
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 14,673	+ 15	+ 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,109	+ 5	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.8	+ 9	+ 10
Telephones in services	8,301	+ 4	.....
MERCEDES: (pop. 10,081)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,363	+ 3	− 1
Value of building permits	$ 2,650	+175	+919
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,531	− 6	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 5,728	− 6	− 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.4	0	+ 7
MIDLAND: (pop. 21,713)			
Postal receipts	$ 41,072	+ 12	+ 7
Value of building permits	$ 567,509	− 3	+ 61
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 49,103	− 6	− 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 62,626	+ 4	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.5	− 9	− 5
Air express shipments	159	− 13	− 15
Telephones in service	17,671	+ 18	.....
MONAHANS: (pop. 6,311)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,654	− 3	+ 11
Value of building permits	$ 51,235	+138	+ 23
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,122	+ 8	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 6,163	+ 4	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.3	+ 5	+ 4
NACOGDOCHES: (pop. 12,327)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,795	+ 8	+ 10
Value of building permits	$ 40,900	+250	+962
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,431	− 2	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,493	− 3	− 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.7	− 1	+ 8
Air express shipments	14	+ 52	+ 40

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
NEW BRAUNFELS: (pop. 12,210)			
Department and apparel stores sales	.....	+ 2	— 17
Postal receipts	$ 10,791	+ 4	+ 9
Value of building permits	$ 103,450	— 27	+ 30
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 7,151	.....	— 13
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,049	.....	+ 22
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.4	.....	— 13
ODESSA: (pop. 29,495)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 12	+ 6
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 10	— 7
Postal receipts	$ 30,484	+ 2	— 6
Value of building permits	$ 1,350,675	— 21	+ 52
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 34,736	— 13	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 32,630	— 13	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.7	— 2	+ 2
Air express shipments	138	— 27	+ 8
ORANGE: (pop. 21,174)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 18	— 17
Postal receipts	$ 13,597	+ 1	+ 9
Value of building permits	$ 510,112	+163	+184
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 20,403	+ 13	+ 22
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 24,258	— 7	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.2	+ 22	+ 19
Telephones in service	10,396	+ 7	.....
PARIS: (pop. 21,643)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 11	— 16
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 3	— 18
Postal receipts	$ 12,292	x	— 9
Value of building permits	$ 62,219	+ 49	+125
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 11,314	— 6	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 14,161	— 5	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	— 1	+ 5
Air express shipments	33	+ 52	— 52
Telephones in service	7,485	+ 2	.....
PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,044)			
Retail sales	.....	— 1	— 10
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 7	— 20
Postal receipts	$ 14,841	+ 1	+ 30
Value of building permits	$ 79,800	+ 17	— 52
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 12,708	— 7	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 20,333	+ 8	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.4	— 13	— 4
Air express shipments	40	+ 15	+ 11
Telephones in service	6,020	+ 7	.....
PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,530)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 12	x
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 30	— 4
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 15	— 11
Drug stores*	.....	+ 5	— 10
Eating and drinking places*	.....	+ 30	— 1
Filling stations*	.....	— 9	— 4
Food stores*	.....	+ 7	— 9
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	— 1	+ 22
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	+ 8	+ 16
Postal receipts	$ 33,679	+ 5	— 2
Value of building permits	$ 372,938	+ 12	+ 74
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 50,967	+ 12	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 36,912	— 10	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	16.4	+ 24	+ 18
Air express shipments	124	+ 6	+ 18
Telephones in service	28,600	+ 4	.....
PALESTINE: (pop. 12,503)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,790	x	— 12
Value of building permits	$ 33,585	+ 28	— 35
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,415	— 4	+ 29
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 12,422	+ 4	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.1	— 7	+ 30
PHARR: (pop. 8,690)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,044	+ 1	+ 15
Value of building permits	$ 39,327	+ 20	+649
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 2,467	— 9	— 15
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,875	+ 15	+ 10
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.2	— 18	— 16
RAYMONDVILLE: (pop. 9,136)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,378	— 2	— 4
Value of building permits	$ 2,300	— 52	— 75
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,847	— 13	+ 62
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 8,601	— 9	+ 15
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.7	— 3	+ 53
Telephones in service	1,718	+ 15	.....
ROCKDALE: (pop. 2,321)			
Postal receipts	$ 2,888	+ 12	— 2
Value of building permits	$ 39,505	— 11	— 55
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,694	+ 34	+ 19
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,675	+ 30	+ 13
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.8	+ 3	+ 8
SAN ANGELO: (pop. 52,093)			
Retail sales	.....	— 9	+ 3
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 7	— 14
Postal receipts	$ 42,850	— 2	— 1
Value of building permits	$ 499,674	— 34	— 19
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 39,756	— 6	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 45,271	— 6	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.6	0	+ 9
Employment	21,350	— 5	x
Manufacturing employment	2,230	+ 6	+ 3
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.9	+ 7	+ 9
Air express shipments	241	— 5	— 2
SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 408,442)			
Retail sales*	.....	+ 4	— 5
Apparel stores*	.....	— 1	— 16
Automotive stores*	.....	+ 39	— 5
Department store sales†	.....	x	— 5
Drug stores*	.....	+ 3	— 5
Eating and drinking places*	.....	— 8	— 4
Filling stations*	.....	— 2	+ 4
Food stores*	.....	— 2	— 9
Furniture and household appliance stores*	.....	— 10	+ 8
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores*	.....	— 9	+ 5
Office, store, and school supply dealers*	.....	+ 36	— 8
Postal receipts	$ 442,350	+ 2	— 4
Value of building permits	$ 4,412,066	+ 44	— 19
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 405,776	+ 7	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 325,839	— 10	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.2	+ 19	+ 3
Employment	193,400	+ 2	x
Manufacturing employment	21,940	x	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.2	+ 24	+ 49
Air express shipments	1,966	— 9	— 16
Telephones in service	156,862	+ 8	.....

For explanation of symbols, see page 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	June 1953	Percent change: Jan-June 1953 from Jan-June 1952	Percent change: June 1953 from May 1953
SAN MARCOS: (pop. 9,980)			
Postal receipts	$ 10,099	+ 7	+ 6
Value of building permits	$ 765,751	— 11	+601
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 4,922	— 1	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)	$ 7,752	— 2	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.6	+ 1	+ 7
SEGUIN: (pop. 9,733)			
Postal receipts	$ 8,812	+ 10	+ 17
Value of building permits	$ 113,580	+ 7	+608
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 6,352	— 11	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 15,362	+ 6	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	5.0	— 29	+ 4
SHERMAN: (pop. 20,150)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 9	+ 4
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 7	— 7
Postal receipts	$ 21,560	+ 3	+ 4
Value of building permits	$ 162,862	+ 50	+ 99
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 23,997	+ 7	+ 11
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 15,028	+ 2	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	19.7	+ 6	+ 8
SULPHUR SPRINGS: (pop. 8,991)			
Postal receipts	$ 4,999	+ 3	— 4
Value of building permits	$ 13,000	.....	— 52
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 5,913	— 6	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 10,394	x	+ 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.0	— 5	+ 8
Telephones in service	2,640	+ 4	.....
SWEETWATER: (pop. 13,619)			
Retail sales	.....	— 16	— 13
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 10	— 13
Postal receipts	$ 9,667	— 1	— 33
Value of building permits	$ 35,550	— 74	— 26
Air express shipments	13	— 29	— 28
Telephones in service	4,618	+ 2	.....
TAYLOR: (pop. 9,071)			
Postal receipts	$ 6,222	+ 2	x
Value of building permits	$ 46,802	+ 49	— 78
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 9,937	— 8	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 13,560	+ 7	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.7	— 12	+ 7
TEMPLE: (pop. 25,467)			
Retail sales	.....	— 5	— 5
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 12	— 2
Postal receipts	$ 22,271	+ 5	— 7
Value of building permits	$ 164,162	— 38	+190
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 15,760	— 2	+ 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 22,726	+ 1	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.6	— 2	+ 1
Air express shipments	42	— 15	— 2
Telephones in service	10,111	+ 6	.....
TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,620)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 19	— 2
Department and apparel stores	.....	+ 15	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 13,942	+ 13	+ 4
Value of building permits	$ 539,039	+ 10	+ 98
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 27,941	+ 23	+ 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 27,001	+ 24	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.4	0	+ 2
TEXARKANA: (pop. 40, 628)§			
Retail sales§	.....	+ 4	+ 4
Postal receipts§	$ 41,749	+ 1	— 11
Value of building permits§	$ 144,944	+ 48	+ 35
Bank debits (thousands)§	$ 41,500	+ 6	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 19,302	— 12	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.8	+ 20	+ 9
Air express shipments§	95	— 6	+ 16
Telephones in service§	15,419	+ 10	.....
WACO: (pop. 84,706)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 4	+ 1
Apparel stores	.....	— 6	— 21
Automotive stores	.....	+ 14	+ 10
Department store sales†	.....	+ 1	+ 52
Florists	.....	+ 7	— 48
Furniture and household appliance stores	.....	— 16	+ 94
Lumber, building material, and hardware stores	.....	+ 9	+ 15
Postal receipts	$ 96,180	+ 5	— 3
Value of building permits	$ 1,225,140	— 25	+ 40
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 78,490	+ 11	+ 22
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 61,574	— 21	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.6	+ 41	+ 18
Employment	42,700	— 8	+ 3
Manufacturing employment	7,340	— 3	+ 7
Percent of labor force unemployed	6.4	+ 34	— 12
Air express shipments	132	— 2	— 20
Telephones in service	38,614	+ 10	.....
WAXAHACHIE: (pop. 11,204)			
Postal receipts	$ 5,272	+ 8	— 44
Value of building permits	$ 70,487	+ 30	+ 24
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 3,757	— 1	+ 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 3,686	— 1	+ 23
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.5	+ 1	+ 13
TYLER: (pop. 38,968)			
Postal receipts	$ 47,166	+ 19	— 23
Value of building permits	$ 743,490	+169	— 60
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 56,666	+ 8	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 53,183	+ 2	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.8	+ 6	+ 6
Air express shipments	233	+ 31	+ 1
Telephones in service	20,067	+ 4	.....
WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 68,042)			
Retail sales	.....	+ 4	— 3
Department and apparel stores	.....	— 7	— 22
Postal receipts	$ 87,568	+ 5	+ 13
Value of building permits	$ 565,250	— 63	— 32
Bank debits (thousands)	$ 82,773	— 1	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)‡	$ 98,440	— 5	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	+ 4	+ 3
Employment	39,650	— 1	0
Manufacturing employment	3,880	+ 13	— 2
Percent of labor force unemployed	4.4	+ 36	+ 2
Air express shipments	389	+ 74	— 1
Telephones in service	32,740	+ 15	.....

x Change is less than one half of one percent.
*Preliminary.
†Reported by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.
‡Excludes deposits to credit of banks.
§Figures include Texarkana, Arkansas (pop. 15,875) and Texarkana, Texas (pop. 24,753).

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	June 1953	May 1953	Apr 1953	Year-to-date average 1953	Average month 1952
GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY					
†Index of Texas Business Activity (100.0)	297*	291*	294	295	268
Index of bank debits	708	695	706	697	664
Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (1947–49=100, unadjusted)	109.4	109.8	109.4	109.7	111.6
¶Index of consumers' prices in Houston (1947–49=100, unadjusted)	.....	116.8	.....	116.5	115.4
Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (1947–49=100, unadjusted)	114.5	114.0	113.7	113.9	113.5
Index of postal receipts	415	404	401	398	382
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District (17.6)	145	143	145	144	144
Business corporation charters issued (number)	277*	344	357	329	278
Business failures (number)	13	12	13	13	8
TRADE					
†Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes, 47.7)	251*	246	248	249	229
Index of total retail sales	520	510	514	517	481
Durable-goods stores	717	696	739	722	653
Nondurable-goods stores	425	419	406	418	398
‡Index of total retail sales in the U.S.	.....	448	443	446	424
Durable-goods stores	.....	647	645	650	582
Nondurable-goods stores	.....	383	377	379	372
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	63.9	65.6	63.6	64.1	63.7
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	38.1	39.0	40.0	41.3	44.4
PRODUCTION					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.8)	625	625	627	634	536
†Index of crude runs to stills (4.5)	220	222	229	224	209
Index of wheat grindings	.....	99	110	101	99
Index of cottonseed crushed	.....	212	183	203	126
Index of southern pine production (unadjusted)	.....	127	139	128	123
Index of dairy product manufacturing	63	70	77	72	49
†Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes, 3.8)	212*	191*	210	203	190
Index of urban building permits	463	417	458	441	399
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.6)	222	211	216	225	232
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)	749	678	686	680	594
Index of industrial production in the U.S.	241*	241*	241	240	219
Index of cement production	.....	330	332	329	325
Construction contracts awarded (thousands)	$ 89,957	$130,338	$112,277	$100,422	$111,344
AGRICULTURE					
Index of farm cash income (unadjusted)	291	312	314	309	506
Index of prices received by farmers (unadjusted)	264	280	279	281	332
Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index—unadjusted, 1910–14=100)	275	279	279	279	288
Parity ratio	104	100	100	102	116
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted, 1910–14=100)	269	309	311	312	371
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted, 1910–14=100)	260	257	255	258	303
FINANCE					
Loans, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 1,759	$ 1,761	$ 1,781	$ 1,763	$ 1,609
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 3,103	$ 3,039	$ 3,071	$ 3,095	$ 2,999
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in Dallas district (millions)	$ 2,410	$ 2,442	$ 2,448	$ 2,447	$ 2,385
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)	$ 5,718	$ 5,377	$ 5,511	$ 5,538	$ 5,382
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)	$ 69,068	$ 68,027	$ 84,614	$ 64,724	$ 58,076
Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands)	$249,509	$171,596	$153,695	$232,144	$188,187
LABOR					
Total nonagricultural employment (thousands)	2,281.5*	2,267.9	2,268.2	2,259.0	2,215.2
Total manufacturing employment (thousands)	437.2*	437.5	437.1	437.2	425.9
Durable-goods employment (thousands)	207.9*	207.0	207.9	206.9	203.3
Nondurable-goods employment (thousands)	229.3*	230.5	229.2	230.3	222.6

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1935–39 except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation (except annual indexes).

Manufacturing employment estimates have been adjusted to first quarter 1952 benchmarks.

*Preliminary.

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡New series. Index computed from estimates of retail sales published by Bureau of the Census.

¶Index computed for February, May, August, and November only.